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MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

TUESDAY, 9TH DECEMBER 1947

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THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 9th December 1947.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Arrest and imprisonment of certain people of this Province by the Hyderabad State.

561 *Q.*—SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA: Will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that Mr. T. K. R. Sarma, Joint Secretary, Kurnool Town Congress Committee, and like him many other citizens of the Indian Union from this Province have been arrested and imprisoned in Hyderabad State; and

(*b*) whether they propose to take any steps to secure their release, particularly in view of the stand-still agreement?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"(*a*) Yes.

"(*b*) The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"Since from all accounts that have reached us through the press and otherwise, Hyderabad State has become a regular inferno, might I ask if they have taken any steps to ascertain the safety and the whereabouts of the prisoners from this Province?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Might I point out to the hon. Gentleman that this is a matter really for the Indian Union, through whom alone we can deal with State authorities and therefore, it does not lie entirely in our power to do what is needed. The Government are trying everything they can do in order to get justice done to these people."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"My question was whether this Government have taken any steps to ascertain about the safety and whereabouts of our people in prison there?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I have already stated that this can only be done through the Government of India with whom we are in correspondence because we have no direct relations with any Indian State."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government will ascertain from the Union Government the total number of our citizens arrested in Hyderabad State?"

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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" That is exactly what the Government propose to do."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—" Is it not possible to appoint a representative on behalf of the Government of Madras to look after the citizens of this Presidency there so that they might report to this Government from time to time what is happening to these persons there? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" I have already explained the relations that exist between the Indian State and the Dominion of India and relations can only be established through the Dominion of India and hon. Members are aware that an Agent-General for the Government of India is about to be appointed and naturally the Provincial Government will have to contact with such representative and any information that the Provincial Government want can be obtained through the Agent-General."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR:—" Might I know whether the particular gentleman has been arrested in Madras territory or in the State territory and how many Madras subjects have been arrested and are prisoners in the State? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" The latter part of the question has been asked by Sri Venkata Subbayya."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR:—" My question is ' how many '."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" It is impossible to state how many have been arrested; arrests that have been made have been made inside the territory of the State."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" In view of the conclusion of the stand-still agreement and the tension has now ceased to exist between the Hyderabad State and the Indian Union, may I know whether the Government will consider the question of releasing the Muslims who have been detained on suspicion under the security section? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Might I submit for your consideration how that question arises."

MR. SPEAKER:—" The question does not arise."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that there is already a Public Relations Officer from Hyderabad here; if so, why not the Madras Government also appoint one in Hyderabad? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" That question has already been answered."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—" Have the Government any information about any ill-treatment or harassment of our people in Hyderabad prisons? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" So far, we have had no information from the Government of India."

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The number of Indian National Army people in the Province.

562 *Q.*—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM (on behalf of Sri S. Nagappa): Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken any steps to find out the total number of Indian National Army people in the Province districtwar; and

(*b*) how many of them have been employed by the Government so far?

THE HON. SRI O. P. RAMASWAMI REDDIYAR:—(*a*) & (*b*) ஒவ்வொரு கலெக்டரிடமிருந்தும் ஒவ்வொரு இலாகா தலைவர்களிட மிருந்தும் மாகாணத்திலுள்ள I.N.A. மெம்பர்கள் மொத்தம் எத்தனை பேர் என்ற கணக்கும் அவர்களில் எத்தனை மெம்பர்கள் சர்க்கார் உத்யோகஸ்தர்களாக இருக்கிறார்கள் என்ற விவரமும் கேட்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அந்தத்தகவல்கள் கிடைத்த பிறகு அதை மேஜையின்மேல் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்படும்.''

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—" Mr. Speaker, we are not able to follow the answer."

MR. SPEAKER:—" Will the Hon. Premier read it once more? "

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—" The answer is in Tamil and we are not "

MR. SPEAKER:—" The Hon. Member knows Tamil as he has been here for very long." (Laughter.)

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" The reply given by the Hon. Premier is a very important one and so I request you to see that every such reply is translated into English so that we can follow it easily."

MR. SPEAKER:—" May I request the Hon. Home Minister to read the answer in English."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (*a*) & (*b*) Information about the total number of Indian National Army men in the Province and the number employed in the Public Services so far has been called for from the Collectors, Heads of Departments, etc., and will, on receipt, be placed on the table of the House."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—" I.N.A. வீரர்களை போலீஸ் டிபார்ட் மெண்டில் சேர்த்துக்கொள்வது என்று தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதா ? அப்படி தீர்மானிக்கப்பட்டிருந்தால் அவர்களை போலீஸ் டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளலாம் என்று I. G. of Police-க்கு தகவல் அளித்திருக் கிறார்களா என்பதை தெரிந்துகொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன்."

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member can put a separate question."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—" Have the Government laid down any definite policy for preferential treatment of these I.N.A. people and if not, whether they would do so? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member might put a separate question."

[' 563 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member is not in his place and the answer will be printed in the proceedings."]

District Munsif's vacancies reserved for war service candidates.

563 *Q.*—SRI T. VISWANATHAM: Will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are any District Munsif's vacancies reserved for war service candidates; if so, the number of such vacancies;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that candidates were interviewed as long ago as October 1946;

(*c*) whether any appointments have been made from among them; if not, why not; and

(*d*) what is the policy of the Government in filling up these reserved vacancies?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" (*a*) Yes. Thirty-one.

" (*b*) & (*c*) The Madras Public Service Commission interviewed certain candidates in October 1946. Further interviewing was suspended under instructions from the Government pending a decision on the question of dereservation of certain reserved vacancies for civilians who had been holding the posts temporarily after regular selection and appointment and on the point whether members of the Indian National Army could also be declared eligible for reserved vacancies. * Members of the Indian National Army were allowed time till 28th February 1947 to apply for these vacancies. The Commission has since resumed the oral examination of the candidates. No appointments have yet been made. The list of candidates selected by the Madras Public Service Commission is awaited.

" (*d*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the Public (Services) Department Press Note * No. 210, dated 21st November 1946."

Expression of opinion by the Hon. the Home Minister.

' 564 *Q.*—MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that he, while unveiling the portrait of His Excellency C. Rajagopalachariar expressed the opinion that His Excellency C. Rajagopalachariar should return to our Province as our Premier, or Leader of the House; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether he made the above statement in his individual capacity or in the capacity of a Minister?

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* Printed as Appendix I on page 88 infra.

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THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"(*a*) No such statement was made while unveiling the portrait of His Excellency Sri C. Rajagopalachariar. All that was said was, that it was a matter for pride that he should have been chosen for such a responsible position and the hope was expressed that he might one day lead Madras again.

"(*b*) The question does not arise."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what the Leader of the House means by 'leading this Province once again?'"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Well, Sir, he can lead it in many ways and the hon. Gentleman can make his own presumption from what I have said."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Leader of the House has considered the repercussions of such statement made by the Hon. Minister going about in the Province?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I do not know what the hon. Gentleman refers to."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Is there anything wrong in the Hon. Minister making the statement even in his capacity as Minister?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"If I thought it was wrong, I would not have made that statement."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact that even now we have the fortune of being led by Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar in a way, Sir?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I am glad to inform the House that if his advise was ever sought, it was always given."

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMA AYYAR:—"May I know whether it is not a fact that His Excellency C. Rajagopalachariar, when he spoke in reply to the address presented by the Madras Corporation, declared that he was not going to enter Madras politics and that he would leave Madras politicians to themselves?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member can put a separate question or address a letter to Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar himself."

Official relationship of Assistant Public Prosecutors with certain other district officials.

* 565 *Q.*—SRI B. S. MALLIKARJUNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Home Minister be pleased to state what is the official relationship of Assistant Public Prosecutors with District Superintendent of Police and the District Collector?

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Assistant Public Prosecutors are under the control of the District Magistrate.

The Assistant Public Prosecutor, Grade I, is responsible under the District Magistrate for the conduct of the prosecuting work of Assistant Public Prosecutors in the district. As the District Superintendent of Police is immediately responsible to the District Magistrate for the preparation and prosecution of police cases, the Assistant Public Prosecutor, Grade I, ordinarily works under the District Superintendent of Police's direction."

SRI B. S. MALLIKARJUNA RAO:—"Is it not a fact that they are subjected to dual control of the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"They are under the District Magistrate; as far as the conduct of cases are concerned, naturally prosecutions are by the Police and he has got to be in close touch with the Superintendent of Police and take directions from him."

SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"May I know if they submit diaries and, if so, to whom and through whom?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"The hon. Member has been in charge of this subject and he knows as much about it as I do."

SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"For the benefit of others."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"The diary is submitted through the District Superintendent of Police to the District Magistrate."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know why it should be submitted to the District Superintendent of Police also?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I have already explained matters. Evidently, the hon. Gentleman does not know how prosecutions are conducted in court; he has got to go with the direction of the District Superintendent of Police because he is really the prosecuting authority."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"May I know whether the appointment of Assistant Public Prosecutors is made on the basis of the communal Government Order?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member can put a separate question."

SRI. K. BHASHYAM:—"May I know whether the diaries are sent through the District Superintendent of Police or is it that they send only copies to him and the main diary is sent to the District Magistrate direct. May I know whether it is not the rule at least about ten months back?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"The hon. Gentleman who has put the question is well aware of the practice. But as far as I know, we have prescribed that it should be sent

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through the District Superintendent of Police for the simple reason that it is easier for him to know what is happening and submit a report to the District Magistrate."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Cannot the Hon. Minister give an assurance that he is as independent as the Public Prosecutor in conducting cases and judging how the case should be conducted?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"They are all trained lawyers of some years standing and they know their responsibility and what is expected of a person conducting a Crown case is and I am sure as learned lawyers, they will conduct themselves with propriety."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I know whether these Assistant Public Prosecutors are subjected to transfers?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"No, Sir, when they are employed in a district and if they are borne on the cadre."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I know whether the Government are aware of a feeling among the Assistant Public Prosecutors that they are treated more as subordinates of the District Superintendents of Police than as independent lawyers assisting Government?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"If the hon. Gentleman will give me facts with regard to allegations he has made I shall see that such things do not happen because I want my Crown Prosecutors to be independent of the Police."

Rural rationing in Guntur district.

* 566 *Q.*—MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state whether— 11-15 a.m.

(*a*) rural rationing in the Guntur district has completely failed;

(*b*) rice has not been supplied in certain taluks in the Guntur district for the last three months;

(*c*) it is a fact that people are dying at Guntur district for want of food; and

(*d*) the Government have taken all steps to prevent rice famine in the Guntur district?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"(*a*) & (*b*) When the stock position in the district fell below 1,000 tons in the middle of September 1947, supply of rice to rural areas other than semi-urban areas could not be made in full. However, paddy was procured with a good deal of effort in the neighbouring paddy growing villages and whatever quantity was thus procured was sent to important rural centres where there were non-agriculturists, and non-wage earners, who depend solely on rice. This was supplemented by cholam and other millets

procured locally and also imported from outside. Even in the statutory rationed areas, rice was supplemented by extra millets for a short time owing to the critical stock position of rice, till stocks arrived from outside the district. It should be mentioned in this connexion that large quantities of paddy and rice had been unauthorizedly moved to the rural areas in the upland taluks in the early part of the year, and they were therefore fairly well provided with rice though the stocks in the ration shops were poor.

" (*c*) No.

" (*d*) Yes. A quantity of 2,000 tons of rice was allotted to the district from Bezwada for the month of October 1947 of which a quantity of 1,649 tons was moved by the end of that month. Another allotment of 2,000 tons of rice has been made for November, 1,000 tons from West Godavari and 1,000 tons from Bezwada. Against an allotment of 4,214 tons of millets (including overseas mylo) during the period from May 1947 to November 1947 (up to 13th November 1947) a quantity of 4,127 tons had been actually moved to the district. All possible steps are taken to unearth hidden stocks of paddy in all the delta taluks of the district. As the new paddy crop will be harvested by the middle of December, it is expected that there will be no difficulty thereafter."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know why the Hon. Minister has not been able to answer this short notice question when it was most needed and why it has taken exactly three months to answer this question? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" We had to call for certain information and so it could not be answered as a short notice question."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether Guntur district is considered as a surplus district or a deficit district? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Guntur district for all practical purposes has till now been classified as a surplus district."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state why in the areas where there is informal rationing, for example, in Chilakalurpet and Sattenapalle towns, the authorities were not able to supply ration nor did they allow the people to get ration from other sources? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" In the answer I have given exhaustive information. If further information is required I shall have to ask for notice."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, in his answer to my previous question the Hon. Minister said ' for all practical purposes ' (laughter); may I know what he means by ' for all practical purposes '? May I know whether he is aware

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that for some years Guntur district has been classified as a surplus district and for some years it has been declared as a deficit district?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It all depends on the harvest, the season and the reports on production on which are based our procurement figures, and so the policy will differ from year to year."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"Is it not pure exaggeration to say that several died due to starvation in Guntur district?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"It is not true, Sir."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, when the people are not able to get rice, neither the Government are supplying rice nor do they allow people to get rice from other sources, as they have posted Policemen, who are robbing small bags of rice taken on headloads by people and will Government be pleased to issue instructions not to obstruct such things?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"This is a new charge against the Police; the Government will have to inquire into it before they commit themselves to anything."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know what is the general policy of the Government, wherever there is informal rationing whenever quantities of foodgrains are not available to the people, what are the general instructions issued to the officers?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The policy of the Government has been more than once explained in this House, and if the hon. Member does not know the policy of the Government yet, I am not responsible for it."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact that Ministers are giving divergent views regarding existing laws of control, while the Hon. Sri Kala Venkata Rao in Chittoor said one way, the Hon. Food Minister in his own district said another way?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member can put a separate question."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"Are the Government aware that headloads of rice are still being carried by train from Bezwada to Tenali and the authorities are not able to stop it?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member can put a separate question. We are now in Guntur district."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"May I know how people in the rural parts manage to get food when they do not get their ration?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members should understand we are now dealing with a particular district. They should also understand it will not be possible for Ministers to give information regarding other districts."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"I understand in Guntur district foodgrains could not reach some of the rural parts on some days; so I put the question how people managed to get food?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"In those areas where it could not be reached, arrangements were made to take food-supply and distribute them."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"In view of the reply given by the Minister that unauthorized rations of paddy are carried by train, by way of headloads; if it is so, may I know why not the authorities put a stop to it within Guntur district?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government are doing their best to prevent these headloads of paddy from being carried. If the hon. Member is fairly well informed, he might have read in the newspapers only two days back, how in the trains arriving from Vizagapatam and Waltair over 700 measures of paddy were seized and secured and they were appropriated for illegal transit of grains."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. the Minister for Food give an assurance that rationing and controls will not be abolished at least in Guntur because it all depends on the harvest, monsoon and procurement and so on?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"No such assurance can be given."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know in places where informal rationing prevails will people be allowed to get ration from other sources?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"Not at all on controlled articles."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Arising out of the previous answer of the Minister that 700 measures of rice on headloads were caught in the passenger train that came from Waltair and Vizagapatam, is it suggested by the Hon. Minister that these headloads of rice came from Waltair or Vizagapatam?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The train came from Waltair and among the passengers of that train were passengers who had these headloads of rice; perhaps the Police allowed them to proceed as far as Bezwada, where when they saw the Police they left the bags and ran away."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, since pulses have been decontrolled now, may I know whether the people of Guntur are allowed to get any quantity of pulses from out of that district?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I expect so."

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[* 567 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER:—"As Mr. R. Subba Ayyar is not in his place the answer will be printed in the proceedings."]

Irrigation projects in the Chingleput district.

* 567 *Q.*—SRI R. SUBBA AYYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) what irrigation projects are proposed to be taken up in the Five-year Plan in the Chingleput district;

(*b*) whether any investigation has been made in connexion with the construction of a dam across the Palar for irrigating the Chingleput taluk; and

(*c*) if not, whether the Government propose to take up such an investigation?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"(*a*) Grow More Food—(1) Improving supply to the Uttiramerur tank by constructing an anicut across the Cheyyar; (2) raising the Full tank level of Soryampalayam tank; (3) constructing an anicut across Chakkali stream for Kalathur tank supply channel; (4) restoring the abandoned tank of Mudiyur village; (5) dam across the Vegavathi river to feed Nathapetai, Vaivavoor, Olagur, etc.; (6) supply to Velacheri tank; and (7) formation of a new tank in Kalvey village in Chingleput taluk.

Post War Development.—(8) Araniar scheme.

"(*b*) No.

"(*c*) No; the availability of supplies in Palar for extension of irrigation is doubtful and extension of irrigation under Palar has been banned since 1931."

Condition of roads in Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly.

* 568 *Q.*—SRI K. T. KOSALARAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the bad condition of all the roads under the Highways Department in Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly districts;

(*b*) whether the Government have received any complaint that subordinates of the Highways Department do not carry out the works sanctioned by the local boards in respect of village roads;

(*c*) whether the Government have received the administration report of the Tinnevelly District Board for the year 1946–47;

(*d*) what action do the Government propose to take for the efficient maintenance of village roads; and

(*e*) whether there is any difference between the Highways roads in Trichinopoly district and those in the districts of Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly in the matter of allotment rates for the maintenance of roads?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"(*a*) It is not correct to say that the condition of all the roads under Highways Department in Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly districts is bad; but the position is certainly not entirely satisfactory."

"(*b*) Complaints have been received from certain district boards about delay in the execution of district board road works by the Divisional Engineers concerned and necessary action has been taken in the matter."

"(*c*) Yes.

"(*d*) It is proposed to allot a sum of Rs. 7 lakhs for village roads out of the provision of Rs. 20 lakhs made for P.W.R.D. works of district boards in addition to the provision of Rs. 4 lakhs separately made for village road works not included in the programme. A proposal is also under examination to constitute a fund called 'Village Road Fund' in order to prevent the lapse of unspent balance of grants sanctioned for village roads. Like other roads of local boards, village roads also are maintained by the Engineering staff of the Highways Department who may be expected to do the work efficiently.

"(*e*) Yes. The allotment rate in Trichinopoly district is less than those in Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly districts. This is due to conditions of maintenance being more favourable in Trichinopoly district."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to read the last paragraph in the Tinnevelly district report dealing with the Highways Department?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"Notice."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Arising out of the answer given to clause (*a*), may I know Sir, whether the Hon. Minister will consider the desirability of undertaking a tour in these three districts and see how these roads are left in a deplorable condition."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"By now I have a fair idea of all the roads. We are not able to provide adequate funds for the proper maintenance of these roads. Whereas the Presidency average for the maintenance allotment is Rs. 1,400 per mile, the money spent this year on the roads in Madura district comes to Rs. 1,620 per mile, in Ramnad it is Rs. 2,215 per mile and in Tinnevelly it is Rs. 2,450 per mile. We have been spending so much but still we find it is not adequate."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know in view of this expenditure which is stated by the Minister to be more generous than in the case of other districts, how does it happen that these districts happen to have such particularly bad roads as are mentioned by my friends?"

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"That is due to the intensity of traffic in those districts and the cost of materials and other articles available."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I know Sir, whether the Government will at least give an allotment equal to that given to first class roads and trunk roads in all the districts?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"That is not possible, for the cost varies from district to district."

M. S. ABDUL MAJID SAHIB BAHADUR:—"As the village roads are the lifeline of trade and commerce will the Hon. Minister be pleased to give a priority for the construction of village roads?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"Yes, Sir; we are doing all that is possible."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are the Government aware that many of the villages in these districts are cut away from towns and other places on account of lack of decent communication facilities?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"That is so; and it is engaging the attention of the Government just now."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister that he has a too fair knowledge of these roads, may I know whether he has a fair knowledge of the roads of the Andhra area also, and in view of the fact that he has toured only the Tamil districts, will the Hon. Minister tour in the Andhra districts also?" (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member can put a separate question."

The Venkatareddi Kunta work.

* 569 *Q.*—SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state— 11-30 a.m.

(*a*) whether the Public Works Department carried out the final investigation of the Venkatareddi Kunta work in Edawalli village of Markapur taluk;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government have sanctioned its execution; and

(*c*) if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"(*a*) Yes.

"(*b*) No.

"(*c*) The Government considered it not worth while spending a lakh of rupees on the scheme as even on Grow More Food grounds the work was prohibitively costly. They therefore directed in July 1947 that the scheme be dropped. Those orders are however being reconsidered by the Government now, as a result of a later representation."

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SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"So far as famine-stricken areas are concerned, the question of return should not be taken into consideration and if so, may I know why the work was dropped?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—"We have to carry so many works which are not so costly. This will irrigate 120 acres and give 60 tons of rice and cost one lakh of rupees. We are examining the question again."

Dearness allowance.

*570 *Q.*—MRS. JEBAMONEY MASILAMONEY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the annual cost of paying dearness allowance to the Government servants in the Provincial Government; and

(*b*) from which date the dearness allowance is being paid?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"(*a*) The Government have been incurring extra expenditure on account of the payment of dearness and cost of living allowance at rates varying from time to time. It is not possible to furnish separate figures in respect of dearness allowance and cost of living allowance, as these are booked together in accounts. The extra expenditure involved in the payment of these allowances is Rs. 446 lakhs roughly, based on the budget estimates for 1947-48.

"(*b*) 1st August 1941."

MRS. JEBAMONEY MASILAMONEY:—"இவ்வளவு தொகை அல்லவன்ஸ் கொடுத்தும் ஜனங்களுக்கு திருப்தி ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறதா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We have received several representations. They show that they are not satisfied."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact that the Hon. Minister Mr. Bhaktavatsalam has been authorised to deal with the matter? May I know whether the Finance Minister is not aware of the promises given by Hon. Mr. Bhaktavatsalam?"

(No answer.)

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Have the Government promised to consider the question of raising the dearness allowance of Non-gazetted officers?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We have said that the matter will be considered and examined."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact that it was only when the Government promised that the question of dearness allowance will be considered favourably the strike of the Non-gazetted officers on the 6th of this month was stopped?"

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" Obviously the hon. Member is referring to the Secretariat Association. We said that the matter will be examined."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is it not a fact that since 1st August 1941 when dearness allowance was first given the cost of living has considerably risen and therefore are not the Government servants entitled to get higher rates of dearness allowance? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" I do not know whether it has risen considerably. It has risen to a certain extent."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Government give an assurance that they will not stand on formalities and principles but decide the matter with justice? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" I can only give information, but no assurance."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, my question has not been fully answered. I asked, Sir, whether the Government servants are not entitled to more dearness allowance in view of the higher cost of living now? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" There is no question of entitlement, Sir. We have received several representations. They show that they are not satisfied."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Does this amount include the dearness allowance promised to the Non-gazetted officers on the 5th of this month? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" No, Sir."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" In the matter of the grant of dearness allowance to the Non-gazetted officers, are the Government aware of a feeling in the country that the Government is bungling in dealing with these officers? "

(No answer.)

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" What will be the rough estimate of the promised dearness allowance that the Government is bungling in dealing with these officers? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" We have not made any promise to anybody in the matter."

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR:—" Is it a fact that dearness allowance has been increased recently to unmarried officers? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA R7DDI:—" Yes, that is so."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether the question of granting dearness allowance to Non-gazetted officers has been settled? "

(No answer.)

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SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Arising out of the answer given to Mr. Karayalar, may I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of increasing the dearness allowance to married officers?"

(No answer.)

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Do not the Government think it desirable that the question of giving dearness allowance to Non-gazetted officers should be decided forthwith so that the Non-gazetted officers throughout the Province and the Secretariat may not go on strike again?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"As I said, the matter is being examined. We cannot hurry up things."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the answer given by the Government that Government servants are not entitled for more dearness allowance, may I know how the Government expect these people to live their lives in these days of high cost of living?"

MR. SPEAKER:—Regarding details of pay, separate question may be put."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are the Government aware that the Non-gazetted officers of the Province are thinking of going on a strike on the 15th of this month again unless this question is settled before that?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"We are more than aware of it, Sir."

Kamala Mills, Coimbatore.

*571 *Q.*—SRI R. KUPPUSWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) why the Kamala Mills in Coimbatore are closed;

(*b*) whether the Government have examined the mill owner's plea that the mill is not working at a profit;

(*c*) whether the Government have taken any action to make the mill owner open the mill;

(*d*) why the Jayalakshmi Mill in Coimbatore is closed;

(*e*) whether the Government propose to control the movement of waste cotton from that mill;

(*f*) whether the Government have reported to the Dominion Government about this matter; and

(*g*) what steps the Government propose to take to make the mill owners open the mills that remain closed now?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"(*a*) The Coimbatore Kamala Mills, Ltd., closed on the ground that the mills were already working at a loss and that the loss would be greater if the award of the industrial tribunal was given effect to.

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" (*b*) The figures in the Profit and Loss Account and Balance sheets of the mills are being verified.

" (*c*) This Government have suggested to the Government of India to take into consideration, the higher wages allowed by the Award of the Industrial Tribunal to workers and staff in the mills in this Province in revising the ceiling prices of yarn of counts upto 40s. The Government are negotiating with the management and the workers for a settlement and they have agreed to reopen them on 11th December 1947.

" (*d*) The Jayalakshmi Mills, Ltd., closed on the ground that the mill was working at a loss owing to the high prices of cotton wastes which are utilised for production of yarn in that mill.

" (*e*) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

" (*f*) The position of this mill has been reported to the Government of India.

" (*g*) This Government are negotiating with the managements to reopen the mills.

" Just now I have received a telegram about the Kamala Mills saying: ' Kamala Mills dispute settled. Reopening on the eleventh Thursday on condition of allotment of cotton by the Government. Please obtain allocation orders from Central Government.' I will take up the question of allocation of cotton with the Government of India."

SRI R. KUPPUSWAMI:—" Is it justifiable to close the Kamala and Jayalakshmi mills before the decision of the standardisation committee? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" Reasons have been given in the course of the answer. There is no use now of going into that question, because the Kamala Mills are going to be reopened on the 11th."

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—" Did the management of the Mills get the permission of the Government before they closed the Mills? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" No, Sir."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—" Is it not a fact that on account of the award of higher wages by the tribunals the mills have suffered a loss and various mills have represented to the Hon. Minister asking him either to revise the prices or reduce the wages? If so, what steps have the Government taken to see that the mills are worked efficiently? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" For the information of the House I may say that the six mills which closed down are the following: Kamala Mills, Coimbatore; Jayalakshmi Mills, Coimbatore; Jayaram Mills, Rajapalayam; Pulicar Mills, Salem; Malabar Spinning and Weaving Mills, Kallai; and the Rajah Mills, Madura;

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"The first four mills are small units which closed down because they could not run at a loss. The Government are satisfied that there is some justification for their position, because they are all mills with small spindlage. So far as Kamala Mills are concerned, I have already given the information that we have been practically able to settle the dispute and make the mills reopen. I expect that the mill will reopen on the 11th. Some of the other mills have only 2,000 spindles or so. The Malabar Spinning and Weaving Mills are old ones. There is no electric power. The management has been asking for certain facilities. We are examining the matter. So far as the Raja Mills are concerned, a prosecution has been ordered for the closure of the mills."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"In view of the shortage of cloth, is it not advisable for the Government to take over the mills and run them?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"As I have already said some of these mills are very small units and they are uneconomic ones whether the Government run them or other people run them. The whole question is whether it is an economic unit and whether it can be run at all and whether it can pay adequate wages. In all cases wherever it is possible, we are trying to persuade the management to start the mills and persuade labour to adjust. In the case of one Mill we have been able to bring about a settlement and have the mills opened. Wherever it is possible every attempt will be made. There are certain mills like the Jayalakshmi Mills where it is not possible because the mill is spinning 7·55 to 10 counts on waste cotton. It is uneconomic to run whether it be by Government or by private management. Government cannot afford to lose money on a proposition which is definitely known to be uneconomic."

SRI B. S. MALLIKARJUNA RAO:—"Is it a fact that the management of the Jayalakshmi Mills sent a petition to the Government one month before the closure of the Mill for the control of waste cotton as well as control of the export of waste cotton from the local mills so that it can be utilized for the purpose of meeting the payment of wages awarded?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"It is true, Sir. I should like to add for the information of the hon. Member that this is a matter under the control of the Government of India and in fact, this was one of the questions discussed with the Hon. Member for Industries and Supplies when he was here recently."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister to let us know the terms of the award?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"They are published in a book available for the hon. Members."

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SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"Sir, in view of the fact that several mills have submitted accounts and shown losses, will the Government issue a statement to the effect that such mills that are not opened immediately and remain closed on account of loss caused the managements of the Mills will not be prosecuted?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"If the mills are closed illegally, naturally the Government will have to take action against people who do illegal acts."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR:—"Is it not a fact that the wages fixed by the industrial tribunal are fairly uniform? Is it not advisable that, having special reference to local conditions wherever necessary, a uniform rate should be enforced in all the mills which formed the subject-matter of the enquiry? In view of the statement of the Hon. Minister that certain small mills are not efficient and are unable to pay the high wages, may I ask whether safeguards would be taken in future to see that only efficient and fairly large concerns which are able to pay the basic wages will be allowed to be started in the Presidency?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"The hon. Member is asking my opinion. I thought he was asking for information."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Government aware of the fact that some of these textile mills are considered to be gold mines and some of them are paying super-tax? They are closing down simply to by-pass the adjudicators' award?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"There are some gold mines which are not paying." (Laughter.)

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that the recent award of the adjudicator in the industrial dispute was given after taking all the factors into consideration and if so, how did the Government come to the conclusion and believe the report of the mill-owners that they were running the mills at a loss?" 11-45 a.m.

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"The report has been made after examination. But it does not relate to each individual mill. It relates to the entire industry. There are a few cases which are patent and which were admitted by labour also that they are not economical to run."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—"May I know whether there is any understanding between all those mill-owners for the closure so that they can by-pass the award?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I have no information, Sir, The hon. Member seems to have information."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR:—"May I ask, whether the Government scrutinised the balance-sheets of these mills before they closed down say from the year 1939 to date to find out what their financial position has been and is to-day?"

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" The latest balance sheet of the different mills will show the position if there had been savings in 1939 or 1940."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—" Is not the award based on facts furnished by the millowners? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" I suggest that a separate question may be put and I will get the necessary details he wants."

SRI M. KANNIAPPAN:—" தலைவர் ஸார், தொழிலாளிகள் கஷ்டப் படுகிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்காக மானேஜ்மெண்டு ஏதாவது உதவி செய்திருக் கிறார்களா என்று கேட்கிறேன். அரசாங்கத்தார் அவர்களுக்கு ஏதாவது உதவி செய்திருக்கிறார்களா என்றும் கேட்கிறேன். "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" The Government is trying to help labour by negotiating with the management to see that the mills are opened. That is what the Government could do."

SRI V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR:—" Are the Government aware that most of the textile mills have during the years 1939 to 1946 made large profits and that they have frittered them away on large dividends and without keeping sufficient reserves? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" It is quite possible. But at the same time it does not help the present situation inasmuch as the money is not in the industry."

SRI B. S. MALLIKARJUNA RAO:—" In view of the hardship experienced by the labourers in the Jayalakshmi Mills do not the Government think it necessary to expedite the securing of orders from the Central Government for the control of the price and export of waste cotton? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" As I have already said in the course of my answers it is one of the matters that has been taken up with the Government of India."

SRI R. KUPPUSWAMI:—" May I know how the Government propose to help the uneconomical mills? "

(No answer.)

SRI M. KANNIAPPAN:—" தலைவர் ஸார், மில்கள் இத்தனை நாட் கள் சாத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிற காரணத்தால் அதை உடனடியாக திறக்கவேண்டு மென்று நம் அரசாங்கத்தார் ஒரு 'பில்' கொண்டுவரப் போகிறார்களா? அதையும் எப்பொழுது கொண்டுவரப் போகிறார்கள் என்பதையும் அறி விக்கும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" I request the question may be translated, because I do not follow what the hon. Member says."

MR. SPEAKER:—" If he has no objection the Hon. Minister for Education sitting beside the Hon. Minister for Industries may translate it for him." (The question was translated.)

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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" Sir, the question is engaging the attention of the Government and we will very soon be able to decide about it."

MR. SPEAKER:—" We have nine more questions to answer. We must finish them within 10 minutes."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I know what question is engaging the attention of the Government? " (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER:—" I must now pass on to the next question. I cannot be translating every question."

Periakuppam village in Tiruvallur taluk.

*572 *Q.*—SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether it is a fact that No. 20. Periayakuppam village in Tiruvallur taluk is without road, water and lighting facilities?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—" No, Sir. There are seven roads and streets serving the village. A scheme for the extension of protected water-supply to the village is under execution. The village has got electric street lighting."

SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI:—" தயவுசெய்து இதை தமிழில் சொல்லும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். தெலுங்கில் சொன்னதும் போதும்."

MR. SPEAKER:—" I hope the Hon. Minister for Education will give the answer in Tamil."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" குறிப்பிட்டிருப்பது சரியல்ல. அந்த கிராமத்திற்கு ஏழு ரஸ்தாக்களும் வீதிகளும் இருக்கின்றன. குடி தண்ணீருக்கு வசதி செய்ய ஏற்பாடுகள் செய்யப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. விளச்சுகளுக்கு மின்சார வசதி ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது."

SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI:—" திருவள்ளூர் பெரியகுப்பத்தில் 10, 11, 12 வார்டுகளில் மண் ரோடுகளாக இருக்கின்றன. அந்த ரோடுகளுக்கு வசதி ஒன்றும செய்வதாக இல்லே. மெட்டல் ரோட் போட ஏற்பாடு உண்டா என்று கேட்கிறேன், இனிமேல் செய்யமுடியுமா என்றும் கேட்கிறேன்' "

(No answer.)

SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI:—" தண்ணீர் விஷயமாக இன்னும் கேட்கவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது."

MR. SPEAKER:—" இன்னும் எட்டு கேள்விகள் இருக்கின்றன. இப்பொழுது time இல்லே. நீங்கள் கேட்கவேண்டுமென்பதை எழுதி அனுப்பியுங்கள் நான் அதை கவனிக்கிறேன்."

Instruction in Kannada.

*573 *Q.*—SRI V. PADMANABHA MALLAYYA (on behalf of Sri K. R. Karanth): Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Christian College High School at Madras is the only institution giving instruction in Kannada in Madras;

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(*b*) whether the Christian College High School, Madras, has applied for a grant this year towards the expenditure on the teaching of Kannada; and if so, how much; and

(*c*) what action the Government have taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"(*a*) Yes.

"(*b*) No.

"(*c*) The Government have sanctioned, as a special case, the payment of a grant equal to the full net cost of maintenance of the Kannada Section for a period of two years from 1947-48."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"Have the Government received representations from various persons that Telugu also should be introduced in the City High schools and that the Government should provide them facilities for the same?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"That does not certainly arise out of this, Sir."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Kanarese language is being provided as a medium of instruction or as a second language?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"There is one class, Sir, in which Kannada is the medium of instruction so that it may provide facilities for the Kannada speaking population of the town as well as it may serve the purpose of providing teaching practice for the Kannada L.Ts."

MOHAMED ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that the answer given by the Hon. Minister is not likely to be followed by some hon. Members will the Government consider the appointment of a Special Minister only for translation purposes?"

(No answer.)

Want of a Muslim Hostel in Mangalore.

* 574 *Q.*—MAHIN SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties to which the Muslim students in Mangalore are put to for want of a Muslim hostel; and

(*b*) if so, what steps the Government propose to take to put an end to the difficulty specified above?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"(*a*) No.

"(*b*) Does not arise."

MAHIN SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that in Mangalore all

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communities have got hostels except the Muslims and whether the Government will take steps to start a Muslim hostel at Mangalore in the near future? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
" The hostels for all other communities are not maintained by the Government. It is open to the Muslim community to maintain a hostel if they want."

Hindustani as medium of instruction.

* 575 *Q.*—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any scheme under contemplation to start or give recognition to colleges or high schools intending to make Hindustani as medium of instruction; and

(*b*) whether any high schools or colleges have already applied to the Government for permission to make Hindustani the medium of instruction in their institutions, and, if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place the details of the scheme on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
" (*a*) & (*b*) No."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether Hindustani is being introduced in all high schools and colleges in this Province, if not why not and if so in which forms it is introduced? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
" Yes, Sir. Orders have been issued that teaching in Hindustani must be provided for in all high schools."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister what steps the Government are taking to enable South Indian students to qualify and appear for all India competitive examinations which in future I understand will be held in the national language of the country which will be either Hindustani or Hindi? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
" That is why teaching for that language has been provided for in all high schools."

SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—" Is it a fact that last year the Government drew up a scheme for introducing Hindustani instruction in all the secondary schools of this Province and also prepared a scheme for training more teachers to teach Hindustani and if so may I know why the Government have not implemented it? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
" I am afraid the hon. Member does not understand the answer. When I said that provision has been made for

instruction in Hindustani I referred only to the orders that have been issued last year and that order is being implemented."

SRI M. KUMARAN:—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that in most of the schools the Hindustani period is merely wasted as the subject is not one for examination? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:— " That matter will be considered along with the reorganization of secondary education."

SRI S. PARAMANANDA RAYAR:—" In view of G.O. No. 1930, Education, dated 2nd September 1947 seeking to exempt those Hindi Pandits who entered service before 9th June 1939 from passing the Pracharak Diploma Examination, is it a fact that the Government Order has fallen short of doing justice to the entrants of 1939–40 in the matter of exemption? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:— " The Government prescribed certain qualifications for the Hindustani teachers. Representations were made that there were teachers with some long services and that they may be exempted from that qualification. The Government agreed to meet their demands and said that people who have had a certain period of service should be exempted. That does not mean that we must make permanent exemptions for every one who is entering service."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Apart from the provision of Hindustani in the present day curriculum in middle schools, may I enquire of the Hon. Minister that in view of the potential importance of Hindustani as the lingua franca of our Union whether adequate provision will be made for this as an optional language in the higher forms of the High Schools and as a language group in the Intermediate and B.A. classes in the college study."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:— " With regard to the high schools the matter is under consideration. With regard to the other matter it is one for the universities and I have no doubt that they will move with the times."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister is satisfied that the meagre provision that is being made with reference to Hindustani will enable South Indian students to compete with the other students in the all India competitive examinations in future? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:— " We hope so, Sir."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government is considering the question of making Hindustani compulsory in this Province? "

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"That is also under the consideration of Government."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I know whether the Government admit that the instruction that is being given in Hindustani is meagre?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The instruction given in Hindustani is not meagre. I do not accept that it is meagre. It would be meagre if we stop giving instruction with the third form but if we continue to give instruction till the sixth form it will not be meagre."

Complaint against the Tahsildar of Papanasam.

*576 *Q.*—SRI V. S. SANKARASUBRAHMANYA MUDALIYAR (on behalf of Sri M. D. Thiagaraja Pillai): Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Collector of Tanjore received a communication from one Sri M. Chockalingam of Pookara Vilar Road, Tanjore, complaining of the behaviour of the Tahsildar of Papanasam, in the circumstances detailed therein and that the Collector of Tanjore did not even have the courtesy to reply to the said communication, much less take any action thereon; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the said party received an unpaid letter from the Revenue Department and had to pay penal postal charges therefor and, if so, whether there is any rule obtaining in the Department to send letters "unpaid" to the citizens of our country and, if so, whether the Government will consider the desirability of cancelling such rule?

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"(*a*) No. Such communication was received by the Collector of Tanjore from Sri M. Chockalingam of Pookara Vilar Road, Tanjore. The latter part of the quesion does not therefore arise.

(*b*) Yes. The permit was sent 'unpaid' by the Tahsildar under the practice which had been in vogue for a long time in his office. Instructions have since been issued by the Collector to all subordinate officers that this practice should cease."

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state what was the part played by the village karnam in this matter and how was the karnam dealt with?"

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"On a reference made before by the Tahsildar the village karnam reported that the applicant had neither paddy in store nor any storage godown. Later on when this was found to be false the karnam was dealt with properly. He was fined."

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Assessment of railway " A " class lands.

12 noon. * 577 *Q.*—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU (on behalf Sri K. Anandan Nambiyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the railway " A " class lands given to railway servants for Grow More Food Campaign are being assessed through " Kar-masool " orders at the rate of twelve times water-rate penal assessment;

(*b*) whether a representation was received by the Tahsildar of Tiruchendur of Tinnevelly district from Mr. A. Iruthayasami, South India Railway Pump Engine Driver, Srivaikuntam, on 17th September 1947 against a taxation of Rs. 350 for a railway " A " class land of 1 acre and 56 cents which he was cultivating under Grow More Food Campaign; if so, what action has been taken by the Tahsildar; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Government have issued a communique on 2nd June 1947 stating that the Government have decided to extend the concessions for the lands under the Grow More Food Campaign and that water-tax will not be collected from such lands?

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—" (*a*) The hon. Member evidently refers to the case of Sri A. Iruthayasami referred to in clause (*b*) of the question. He has been charged 12 times the water-rate for irregular irrigation as he did not take the necessary permit for irrigation. The question of remitting the penalty will be considered if he moves the jamabandi officer or appeals to the Collector.

" The levy of charge for water under the Tambraparni system is governed by the Standing Orders of the district and the Grow More Food rules do not affect that practice.

" (*b*) The Tahsildar, Tiruchendur, has reported that the petition in question was not received by him.

" (*c*) The hon. Member apparently refers to the Press Release, dated 2nd June 1947. It did not announce any general exemption but referred to the extension of certain water-cess concessions already granted. The waiver of penalties for infringement of irrigation rules allowed under Grow More Food scheme does not apply to areas as in Tambraparni system where extension of irrigation is restricted by the rules."

Opening of a dispensary at Ayirvedhanallur.

* 578 *Q.*—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU (on behalf of Sri K. Anandan Nambiyar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he has received a memorandum from Sri T. Raman, President, Kisan Sabha, Ayirvedhanallur, Madura district, requesting the opening of a dispensary in that village for the 2,000 inhabitants there;

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(*b*) if so, what action has been taken;

(*c*) whether in spite of the representations made from 90 residents of that village to the District Collector, no well for drinking water has been dug so far; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that cholera is prevailing in this locality?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (*a*) & (*b*) No memorandum has been received so far.

" (*c*) A representation from the Harijan residents of the place for the provision of a well was received by the Board of Revenue on 25th August 1947. There is already a well in the village with good drinking water, which is used by the Pallars. The question of providing a separate well for the Harijans of the village is under the Board's consideration.

" (*d*) The place was infected with cholera only from 1st September 1947 up to 5th October 1947."

Assistant Directress of Public Health.

* 579 *Q.*—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Assistant Directress of Public Health is shortly to retire;

(*b*) whether the Government have any intention of abolishing this post; and

(*c*) if the answer is in the negative, whether the Government propose to post a woman only?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) No.

" (*c*) Yes."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I know when the Assistant Directress is due to retire? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" She is due to retire on the 30th of this month (December 1947)."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I know whether the Government have already appointed any one to this post? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" The Government have asked the Public Services Commission to advertise and make the selection."

Wages and dearness allowance paid to labourers in the Cinchona plantations.

* 580 *Q.*—SRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) the wages and the dearness allowance that are being paid to the labourers working in the Government Cinchona plantations; and

(*b*) whether the Government propose to consider the advisability of increasing the above wages and dearness allowance?

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—"(*a*) A statement[a] is placed on the table of the House.

"(*b*) No, Sir."

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—MESSAGES FROM THE COUNCIL.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have to announce to the House that the following messages, dated Fort St. George, the 4th December 1947, have been received by me from the Hon. the President of the Madras Legislative Council:—

(1) In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Probation of Offenders (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 34 of 1947) as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.

(2) In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Prohibition (Temporary Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 36 of 1947) as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.

(3) In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Opium and Dangerous Drugs (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 35 of 1947) as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.

"I have to announce to the House that the following messages, dated Fort St. George, the 5th December 1947, have been received by me from the Hon. the President of the Madras Legislative Council:—

(1) In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 28 of 1947) as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.

(2) In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 25 of 1947) as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.

(3) In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 17 of 1947) as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.

(4) In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Devadasis (Prevention of Dedication) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 21 of 1947) as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 89 infra.

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(5) In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Marumakkattayam (Amendment) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 39 of 1947) as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.

(6) In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras City Police (Amendment) Bill (L.A. Bill No. 40 of 1947) as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.

(7) In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Hindu Women's Rights to Property (Extension to Agricultural Land) Bill, 1947 (L.A. Bill No. 4 of 1947) as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

III.—THE MADRAS ESTATES LAND (REDUCTION OF RENT) BILL, 1947.

MR. SPEAKER:—" As hon. Members are aware, the report of the Select Committee on the Madras Estates Land (Reduction of Rent) Bill, 1947, and the Bill as amended by the Committee were republished in an extraordinary issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 4th December 1947. In addition to copies of the Gazette supplied in the normal course to the Members by the Press, copies of the Proceedings of the Select Committee on the above and the Report of the Committee with the Bill as amended by the Committee were circulated to Members to their local addresses by special messengers on 6th December 1947. The Government propose to take up the Bill for consideration to-morrow the 10th December 1947.

" In view of the short notice, I do not propose to enforce rule 90 of the Assembly rules which prescribes three days' notice in case of amendments. I would however like to fix 11 a.m. tomorrow (10th December 1947) as the latest hour for the receipt of the amendments to the Bill in order to avoid the difficulty in circulating them to Members in time and otherwise dealing with them. Of course, this time limit will not apply to Government amendments."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" May I know how long this Bill will take and when the main Bill [The Madras Estates (Repeal of the Permanent Settlement and Conversion into Ryotwari) Bill] will come up before the House? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" This Bill can be finished even in five minutes if the House so desires. It is in the hands of the House. The main Bill will come as soon as this Bill is finished."

SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU:—" On a point of information "

MR. SPEAKER:—" We have a number of Demands for Grants. So, if the hon. Member has got anything, let him put it in writing and pass it on to me."

IV.—STATEMENT ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN TINNEVELLY DISTRICT.

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR:—"I rise to request the Hon. Minister for Food to make a statement to-day on the food situation in the Tinnevelly district."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"The Government continue to receive representations from Tinnevelly district stating that the stock position in several parts is unsatisfactory and that people have to go without rations for days together. The Congress Committee, Vilathikulam, has wired that in one village of Koilpatti taluk there have been four deaths due to starvation and this allegation has been referred to the Collector of Tinnevelly telegraphically for immediate report. With reference to the representation of Mr. Muhammad Ismail to the Hon. Food Minister that there was acute food trouble in Tiruchendur taluk the Collector was contacted on the phone and asked to report the stock position in the several taluks in the district. It is observed that whereas the stocks in the district on 27th November 1947 were 3,828 tons of rice and 296 tons of millets, the total stock position on 4th December 1947 has fallen to 2,563 tons of rice and 238 tons of millets. The stocks in the various taluks on 4th December 1947 were as follows:—

Taluks.	Rice.	Millets.
Ambasamudram	616	..
Nanguneri	332	4
Tinnevelly	229	6
Tinnevelly statutory	508	30
Tenkasi	121	14
Srivaikuntam	105	36
Tiruchendur	136 (on 4th) (127 on 6th)	34 (on 4th) (33 on 6th)
Sankarankoil	81	56
Koilpatti	151	55
Nanguru	30	1
Tuticorin Statutory	254	3
Total ..	2,563	239

"The weekly issues in the district is about 1,400 tons of rice and about 120 tons of millets and eight tons of other commodities. Based on the weekly issues, the stock of 2,554 tons of rice and 238 tons of millets should last for about 12 days from the 4th of December, i.e., up to 16th of December. But as all the taluks in the district had some stocks on the 4th of December there was no reason why rationing should have broken down any where and why ration should have been refused. A demi-official letter has been issued to the Collector asking him to explain the position in the district.

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"The Board has allotted to this district 1,500 tons of rice from Tanjore district. Up to the 3rd no quantity has moved into the district but when once the necessary arrangements have been completed for purchase and transport there should be a steady flow into the district. The Collector has already reported that he is making sufficient arrangements for moving the stocks. The Board has also allotted 500 tons of rice from a consignment of 3,000 tons of overseas rice due on 11th December 1947. Three hundred tons of millets are still due to be received in the district from Salem and the Board has since allotted 500 tons of milo which is arriving at Marmagoa on behalf of Mysore as the Mysore Government have agreed to lend 2,000 tons out of the shipment for Madras. This quantity of 500 tons should be moving to the district by about the third week of this month. With the arrival of these stocks the position in the district should ease."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Hon. Minister said that the stock of rice in Tiruchendur taluk was 136 tons. I do not know whether this is sufficient to meet the requirements of the people of the taluk. So far as the information which I have received to-day goes, in the village of Kayalpatnam in that taluk, 143 bags of paddy were supplied last week and 160 bags of paddy this week. This works out at three-fourths of a measure of paddy or three-eighths of a measure of rice per head per week. In view of this, can the Hon. Minister say that rationing has not broken down in that taluk?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"I have given the latest report about the food situation in the Tinnevelly district. Whether the district has got all that it has been promised or that it is entitled to get is a matter on which I would like to call for further information."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, கனம் உணவு மந்திரி அவர்கள் 3-ம் தேதி கொடுத்த ஸ்டேட்மெண்டு பிரகாரம் அது மிகவும் தப்பிதமான ஸ்டேட்மெண்டு என்றும் பல கிராமங்களிலிருந்து மக்களுக்கு ஒரு அவுன்ஸ் ரேஷன்கூட கிடைக்காமலிருக்கிறது என்றும் அவர்கள் பட்டினியால் மடிந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்றும் பல தந்திகள் மந்திரிகளுக்கும் சட்டசபை அங்கத்தினர்களுக்கும் வந்துகொண்டிருக்கின்றன. இந்த நிலைமையில் இப்பொழுது மிகவும் முக்யமாகவும் அவசியமுமான ரேஷன அடுத்த ஜில்லாக்களிலுள்ள கோட்டாக்களிலிருந்து கொடுக்கும்படி கலெக்டருக்கு உடனடியாக Trunk telephone மூலமாக அனுப்பிக்கவேண்டும். அநேகம் கிராமங்களிலிருந்து நூற்றுக்கணக்கான தந்திகள் வந்துகொண்டிருப்பதால் அங்கே நிலைமை மிக மோசமாக இருக்கிறது என தெரிகிறது. ஆதலால் உணவு மந்திரி துரிதமான நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்றும் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். திருச்செந்தூர் தாலூகா ஒரு deficit தாலூகா. அதற்கு ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருப்பதாக சொல்வது மிகவும் குறைவு."

MR. SPEAKER:—"நீங்கள் இப்பொழுது பேசுகிறீர்கள். அவர் சொன்னதில் ஏதாவது சந்தேகம் இருந்தால் அதை கேட்கலாம். மந்திரி அவர்கள் அதற்கு பதில் கொடுப்பார்கள்."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"கனம் மெம்பர் அவர்களுக்கு நான் சொல்லவேண்டியதெல்லாம் கலெக்டருக்கு டெலிபோன் மூலமாக 12-15 p.m.

அப்பப்பொழுதும் தேவையானபோதும் நாங்கள் டெலிபோன் செய்து கொண்டுதானிருக்கிறோம். அதிலிருந்துதான் நாங்கள் இப்பொழுது கொடுத்துருக்கிற விவரத்தைக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறோம். இப்பொழுது கொடுத்திருப்பது கடைசியாக வந்த விவரம்தான். அதைத் தான் அவர்களுக்கு சொல்லப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அவர்கள் எவ்வளவுக்கும் கொடுக்கமுடியுமா முடியாதா எனற உறுதிகொடுக்க மொத்தம் எவ்வளவு ஸ்டாக இருக்கிறது, எவ்வளவு ஜனங்களுக்கு வேண்டுமென்ற விஷயம் தெரிந்துகொண்டுதான் பதில் சொல்லமுடியும்."

12-15 p.m. SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—" May I know, Sir, how the removal of control of foodstuffs proposed by the Government will affect the situation, whether it will affect the people adversely or favourably? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member should not raise new questions. The Hon. Minister has made a statement and if he wants further information in the matter, he can ask questions."

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR:—" May I know whether the Government are satisfied with the food position in the Tinnevelly district and in view of the coming seven weeks, which are indeed very critical, will the Hon. Minister for Food give us an assurance that rural rationing, about which there is so much furore, will not at all break down? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—" Sir, the Government are responsible for the distribution of food at their disposal; and if all the generous public should come forward and give their assistance to the procurement agency, by asking people who have surplus to surrender their foodgrains, then the position of the Government will be made more easy, for distributing them to the people who are in urgent need of it."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" Sir, we have heard the statement with regard to the food situation in the Tinnevelly district. May I request the Hon. Minister for Food to issue a similar statement to-morrow in this House with regard to the adjoining district of Ramnad, where similar condition prevails? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" No, that is not possible. Then an hon. Member from Chingleput will want a similar statement from the Hon. Minister for Food in respect of Chingleput district. If every hon. Member wants a statement like that to be made by the Hon. Minister for Food for his district, then it would be an impossible task for him."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, we are really grateful to the Hon. Food Minister for what all he has done for meeting the critical food situation in the Province and we are also prepared to co-operate with him in whatever ways we can in easing that situation. We only want to know how we are to co-operate with the Government in solving this difficult problem. In this connexion, may I ask him, Sir, whether the position in Tiruchendur taluk, in particular, is not extra critical now? If it is not met immediately, many people will die on account of starvation, which in fact can be seen from the availability of rice

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only to the extent of three-eighth of a measure of rice per week per head in some places of the taluk. Therefore I want to know whether the Government will do all that is possible to get over this crisis immediately."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" From the statement I have read just now, the hon. Leader of the Opposition might understand clearly that the Government have done everything in their power to meet the situation. I said that stocks are moving and also gave information regarding the various dates on which the stocks will be arriving at the different places. The question now is to distribute these stocks to the needy people as soon as the stocks arrive at those places and it is only for that help that I appealed to the hon. Members of the house."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, we are prepared to co-operate with the Government in this matter, and we want to know when these additional stocks will reach the place."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I said, that they have already moved, and some of the stocks are moving, and it is very difficult to say when they will be received. But arrangements have been made to expedite the movement and as soon as they arrive, they will be distributed."

V.—POLICE FIRING IN NANDIGUDEM, KOVVUR TALUK.

SRI B. S. MURTHI :—" On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I want to know whether the Ministers can evade giving answers for weeks on end to short notice questions, especially to the question of shooting which my hon. Friend Mr. Bapineedu has given notice of, as a short notice question, one week ago."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Regarding that question, how many times does the hon. Member want an answer to it, in this House? I think the Hon. Leader of the House has answered several times that he has called for the information, and that he would inform the House as soon as it is received."

SRI A. SATYANARAYANA RAJU :—" With regard to the firing that took place in Nandigudem, in the Kovvur taluk, five people have been shot dead mercilessly and I myself went to the place and heard about the police atrocities. I want to know from the Hon. Minister for Home whether he had not yet received any report from the district officials."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is better that the hon. Member puts that in writing instead of asking it in the open Assembly, and I will pass it on to the Hon. Minister for giving him the information. It is not necessary that a number of Members should raise the same question in the Assembly."

SRI A. SATYANARAYANA RAJU :—" Sir, a short-notice question has already been given notice of by my hon. Friend, Mr. Bapineedu ten days ago and no reply is still forthcoming from the Hon. Home Minister. In that shooting, five persons

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have been killed and two have been seriously wounded. Even machine-guns were also used by the police. It is an important matter, Sir, and the Hon. Home Minister does not seem to realize the gravity of the matter."

MR. SPEAKER:—" I wish to know from the Hon. Leader of the House whether he has got anything to say in the matter."

* THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Sir, I called for the information and I have obtained it, and we are trying to find out in what way an enquiry could be held in this matter. Personally I feel, Sir, that the enquiry should be held by a judicial officer, because he can go into the *pros* and *cons* of the matter and we can take it that this judicial officer will be above party. It is natural that people may get excited, because some persons have been killed. What exactly happened in that place, has been reported by my hon. Friends, Messrs. Alluri Satyanarayana Raju and Bapineedu and another hon. Member and their report, I have in my hand. That report differs from the one I have received from the District Magistrate concerned. (An hon. Member: 'Naturally'.) There is no use saying 'Naturally' because after all, the District officers work under difficult conditions and any reflections cast upon them may be cast on me, and I am prepared to take them. (Interruption.) I have been saying, Sir, that the report given by the District Magistrate and the non-official members' enquiries which they have submitted in the form of a report, differ widely. Therefore, the only source I have, of getting at the truth is by a special enquiry which I propose to have. The question that I am considering at present is whether any non-officials should be associated with this judicial enquiry. I am considering whether it will not be wise to get two lawyer members of the Bar of standing acquainted with the language of the locality who might sit with this Judicial Officer to make enquiries and submit a report. When the report is submitted, the Government will be in a position to consider how these incidents happened and what steps they should take, if there has been use of excessive force and to bring home to the people concerned that what was done was wrong. This is all that I could do in the matter. I know that there are members competing with each other to get at this information. Mr. Murthi seems to be as much concerned with this matter as Mr. Satyanarayana Raju. I know both of them. (Sri B. S. Murthi: 'No competition, Sir.') I am glad to hear that, but it does exist, as far as I know.

" Therefore, Sir, I would assure hon. Members this much, that after the judicial enquiry is made and after the facts are known, the Government will take all the necessary steps to deal with the matter if it is found that there has been excessive use of force in the matter and to deal with it accordingly."

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—" On a point of personal explanation, Sir. We wanted Mr. Satyanarayana Raju to enquire about it. Since he was refused permission, I was asked to it. I have great pleasure to inform the Hon. Home Minister that there is no competition between us and no rivalry between us in this matter. On

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the other hand we are very anxious that the Government should come out and say something about it. We do not want that the Government should be silent over the matter. That is all, Sir."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Home Minister, may I ask him, why, in a similar case, where the report of the non-official members was at variance with the report of the officials, a similar enquiry, which he now proposes to institute in this case, has not been instituted? That is, with reference to an incident which took place at Melapalayam in the Tinnevelly district where also four people were killed as a result of police firing. There also, Sir, there was a variance between the police report and the report given by non-officials, and though there have been many requests from our side to hold an impartial enquiry, nothing was done. I submit, Sir, that an enquiry should be instituted for restoring confidence among the people. No action has so far been taken in that matter.

" Then again, Sir, with regard to the short-notice question which was given notice of by my hon. Friend Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, there is no question of any variance or difference at all. That question was raised only to seek information and though it is weeks since the question was asked, no reply has yet been given, Sir."

* THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Sir, so far as Mr. Murthi's observations are concerned, I am prepared to take his assurance that there was no competition among them and I am very glad to hear of it.

" With regard to the matter raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I think, Sir, that things have become very quite in Melapalayam and I am sure the hon. Member is quite as much concerned as I am for the keeping of peace in that part of the district. I do not think that an enquiry is going to take the matter any further. Besides the variance was not so great. The hon. Leader of the Opposition himself admitted to me when he saw me, that there was a procession and there was some little fracas on account of this, but as things have become quiet, I hope he does, not want feelings to be stirred up again, by an enquiry of this sort. I should also like to assure the hon. Member that both the District Magistrate and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police went there and enquired into the matter. Both of them were Muslim officers and therefore it can be taken for granted that their report would not be biassed, and even if there were any bias, in the present case, it would be more favourable to the community to which they belong than otherwise and I feel that they made a very just enquiry and submitted a just report; and as the situation had become quiet, I thought it was not necessary to hold another enquiry, Sir.

" With regard to Mr. Mahboob Ali's question, it was really with regard to the detention of certain Muslims in Kurnool and in Bezwada. I assure the hon. Leader of the Opposition and

Mr. Mahboob Ali that we will look into this matter, but the situation being what it is, we have got to be careful and wary, because the Government is responsible for law and order. If any mishap happens, because the Government have done things in a hurry, they would be blamed. Naturally therefore, the Government have got to be very cautious and careful. But as I said before, I am making an enquiry. The hon. Gentleman himself wanted permission to interview these detenus as their legal adviser which I had given. Therefore he will know the position, when he visits them."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, with regard to the Melapalayam incident, I may say that it is more a party question than a Hindu-Muslim question. I want to disabuse the mind of the Hon. Home Minister of the impression that it was a Hindu-Muslim question but that it was purely a party question."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I do not want any assurance from the hon. Member, Sir. All that I said was that there was no need for a non-official enquiry, considering that the situation is quiet now."

VI.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR FURTHER EXPENDITURE IN THE YEAR 1947-48.

12-30 p.m. MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister for Excise will now move the motion standing in his name."

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 100 under Demand II—Provincial Excise.'

Sir, the object and the purpose for which this motion is made are set out at page 3 of the printed memorandum already circulated to the Members. I move the motion that the grant be made."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to inform the House that hon. Members should not treat this as an occasion for general discussion. The notes are given along with the list of Demands for Grants, and I hope hon. Members' remarks will be confined to the items contained in the Demand which is moved."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of submission, Sir. I know we are hard-pressed for time; but there are certain questions which relate to all the demands, which can be put in a manner which will save the time of the House, if you kindly permit Members to deal with them together. For example, there is one aspect which relates to several demands."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Let me know it."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"For example, take the method of explaining the several items adopted here. For instance, at the last page of these notes, page 14,

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details regarding the number of yards of cable, the rate per thousand; the reason why they gave the order—all these are mentioned in detail."

MR. SPEAKER:—"That can be discussed only on that Demand."

* MR. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"No; I will tell you why, Sir. Take the Demand for Agriculture. There they simply say that for controlling rat pests, they want so much amount, and they do not say how they want to control it. Then again they refer to Diesel engines being purchased, but nothing more is said. What I say is: if members can make their remarks in a general way, they need not repeat them on demand after demand and thus we can save the time of the House. Therefore, I submit that some Members, if they want to refer to more than one demand, may be kindly allowed to do so because the aspect I referred to relate to several demands."

MR. SPEAKER:—"That cannot be allowed; we must follow the rules. How can the Members speak on these demands as if it is a general discussion of the Budget?"

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, I move the cut motion that stands in my name, viz.—

> *'that the allotment of Rs.* 100 *for Provincial Excise be reduced by Re.* 1.'

"In moving it, I must say it is very unfortunate that the Opposition is not able to impress upon this Government the necessity for going slow with the Prohibition programme. Unfortunately, the majority of members in the Opposition happen to be Muslim Leaguers and I know they have placed themselves in a sort of self-denying ordinance on account of religious and sentimental reasons, and it therefore falls to my lot, at least, as being a member of the Opposition, to din it into the ears of the Government as and when occasion arises, that they ought not to go through their Prohibition policy in such a hurried manner. I know some of the Congress people themselves do not really believe in Prohibition. (An hon. Member: 'Question.') I am saying some of them do not believe. (An hon. Member: 'I still question.') You may question as much as you like, but I know some are sceptical about its success, but they do not say so openly because there is the Congress Party discipline. (An hon. Member: 'Certainly not.') Any amount of 'Certainly not' may come, but the fact remains that Prohibition can never succeed in this country for the simple reason that people who are accustomed to drinking from time immemorial will keep on drinking whether the Congress Party wants it or not. If the Congress Party thinks it must go through this Prohibition, then it must have a policy. Is this programme or a policy, I want to know. If this is only in their programme, then they can take their own time. (Interruption:) I do not want to be interrupted by the Congress Members.

If it is a programme, then I ask, why not wait for some time? Let them sit on the saddle first; they have just taken charge of the Government of Madras. What do we find now? We are under a threat from the non-gazetted officers that they are going to strike. Why? Because you have not been able to tackle the food shortage properly—I am not blaming the Food Minister—but what I say is: do something substantial without wasting your time on Prohibition. Do you mean to say that this Province of Madras consists only of drunkards? Otherwise, why do you want to hurry this Prohibition policy? What is the number of persons who are in the habit of drinking? It may be 10 per cent; it may be 15 per cent; is it likely to be 50 per cent? If it is more than 50 per cent, then I consider we can as well say the Province is full of drunkards. If it is not 50 per cent, then I ask, what is the percentage of drunkards to the total population? Have you got statistics to show that? What is the hurry for carrying out this programme? I say you are simply frittering away the money that is available, i.e., Rs. 17 crores; you are losing that and for the maintenance of law and order, you have to come up for extra staff which costs another 8 crores; so, Rs. 25 crores you are wasting on this item. Then you turn your attention to the Sales Tax and you increase it; and the Finance Minister still wants to find out wherefrom he can grab more and more money. What I ask is: why not go slow? I do not want you to give up this Prohibition programme; you have already got 16 districts dry; my request to the Government is, please go slow. You say you cannot afford to do it; the Hon. Minister was saying the other day that public opinion is behind him in this respect. What is public opinion, I ask? Simply because the Congress gentlemen have been returned by the electorates some time ago, do they reflect public opinion? Getting returned to the Legislature is something different from running a Government. Take the *Madras Mail;* it has been repeatedly writing about this Prohibition and advising the Government not to proceed so hurriedly. Take the *Hindu.* I want you to read the leader of this morning's paper wherein it discusses the question of payment of dearness allowance to the non-gazetted officers. What does the *Hindu* say? 'As regards the argument about the state of the provincial finances, the Madras Government, when it decided on policies which it knew, must involve a huge loss of revenue, should have reflected that it would not be fair to deny poor-paid employees sorely-needed relief.' What does it reflect? Does it reflect public opinion or not? Or, simply because the Congress members are in a majority in this House, can they arrogate to themselves the statement that they alone represent public opinion? Let me, as I said, be given the statistics of the number of drunkards in this Province and be convinced about the necessity for this haste in carrying out the Prohibition programme; then I will be satisfied. It is sheer waste of time, and waste of good paper—these notes that are coming to us from the Publicity Department. There is absolutely nothing in these sheets of paper, giving some notes about the

working of Prohibition in the districts. They contain a sort of stereo-typed statements, giving paragraph by paragraph the number of cases detected, the assistance given by officials of other departments and by non-officials, etc. Month after month the same thing is coming; some lower division clerk fills up the figures and sends up the form to the Press and after being printed, to the Assembly Members and to the newspapers. Nothing more and nothing less. Here you find something very interesting. In August 1947, 'the total number of illicit distillation cases, which also showed a decrease was 958 as against 1,015 in July.' There was a marked decrease in the district of Salem from 270 to 202. . . The fall in Salem district is attributed to the vigilance of the special staff in putting down illicit distillation, while that in Chittoor is attributed to the decrease in crime.' What is the comparison between decrease in crime and illicit distillation, I cannot follow. Supposing the figure goes up, even then the same reason is given: 'The increase in Anantapur and Cuddapah districts was due to the special steps taken by the enforcement staff in conducting several large-scale raids.' So, when there is an increase, it is due to the enforcement staff, and when there is a decrease, it is also due to the enforcement staff!! So, alternatively, for the same reason, it keeps on decreasing and increasing. Why? You have a law and that law is being broken day after day and you have got to enforce that law; it is simply doing and undoing things. What I say is: you ought to create public opinion and tell people the evil effects of drink; without doing that, you are spending money on so many things. What I ask is: where is the hurry for this programme; until you can sit better in the Government chairs and see for yourself how best you can distribute the money, where is the hurry? Now, these people do not know what they are doing—that is my idea. They do not know the implications of their actions—they do not know how much money they have got. Even the ordinary people, before they go and make purchases, know they have Rs. 100 and that purchases can be made only for Rs. 80 and a little more, and they think about it. But here, when you have no money in your coffers, what is the use of proceeding in such haste? Anyhow you must get on with the programme; that is what you think. I say these reports contained in these sheets from the Publicity Department are simply a colour-wash from various districts; the Collector does not know what is going on; he simply keeps on filling the statistics that come from the district officers; and when he has got nothing else to do, he simply says, there is a further increase or decrease in crime. And look at this: it is said here, 'there was a further increase in the number of coffee and tea stalls in all the Prohibition districts.' With the recent enhancement of the sales tax, I think even the price of coffee and tea will go up; again you cannot now get sugar, at any rate, it will cost double the price to the poor man and he cannot afford to have even this coffee and tea.

" Then there is another remark about the beneficial effects of Prohibition: ' The reports of the Collectors indicate that there is marked improvement in the economic and domestic life of the poorer classes in general and of the ex-addicts in particular.' I want to know if they are two different things—economic life and domestic life. You have got to give some explanation and so you put in all these things. The wonderful thing of all is, this Government says it has helped a ' Peria Payyan, son of Rama Goundar ' in Bhavani taluk and another ' Chinnasami Chettiyar, son of Chokkappa Chettiyar to buy hundred rupees worth of goats,—as if anybody is interested in their purchasing Rs. 100 worth of goats. What I say is: you find here a sheer waste of paper. Look at the waste of man-labour involved; and if the Tahsildar or Collector in the mufassal has to go through all these things, what a huge waste of labour and time. All this I will debit to the Prohibition Department. (Interruption by Srimathi C. Ammanna Raja.) Let me tell the Deputy Speaker and hon. Members of this House that at least one person like myself comes here and talks about Prohibition and these officers. These Congress people are going headlong without knowing it; let me ask the Deputy Speaker whether she can balance the Budget; that is unfortunately left to the poor Finance Minister who does not know how to do it. She cannot say therefore that I am wasting my time here. I say, you are all ready-made people; ready-made for Prohibition work. (Interruption.) I do not want to be interrupted. What is the position today? As a result of the war, we have got no food; the war has had its reactions—no food, no clothing, no houses, industrial unrest, and people are not satisfied with the wages they are getting, and yet these people on the other side keep on laughing, because they are in a majority and nothing can be done; they know that members of the Opposition cannot support this motion because they are Muslims; drinks are ' haram ' to them and no other religion says that drink is ' haram.' They are respectable gentlemen; they feel like that. And when the Congress Government is going headlong with this Prohibition, what can we, poor people, do? Here you have got a brute majority; this demand is coming up here only for the sake of formality. Does the Minister bother about the speeches made here, or is this cut motion likely to be carried and are they going to be stranded without the necessary money? We simply do the talking here and the Minister will get the amount all right after making some reply; he will already have the reply ready. And this, they say as public opinion. Sir, let me tell you, public opinion is the one thing I am depending upon; I say public opinion—at least the middle-class public opinion—is such that certainly they do not want this Government to hasten the Prohibition programme.

12-45 p.m. " That I want to make clear to the hon. Members on the Treasury Benches and the members of the Congress Benches."

*THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" What about the League? "

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* SRI P. NATESAN :—" They are our people now. As I said, Sir, I want the Hon. Minister to state whether it is not possible for his party to go slow in regard to this Prohibition programme. Where is the hurry for this? I ask, Sir, are fifty per cent of the people of this Province drunkards, and whether their health is affected by this drink. It is not even five per cent of the entire population that have taken to this drink. When such is the case, why waste so much money on this Prohibition programme? You must realize, Sir, that everything has become four times costly and the poor people cannot manage to get their foodstuffs and dhalls and so on even in towns. Then how you expect the poor man to get these foodstuffs? In my house, to-day, people told me that they could not get 'tuvaramparuppu.' The price of this dhall has gone up to Rs. 1-4-0 per measure. The same is the case with sugar. I am speaking here as the representative of the poor; these poor people are not noisy and vociferous. If only they had known that their voices and feelings would not be properly reflected in this House, they would not have returned the Congressmen in such large numbers."

* THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" There is going to be adult suffrage."

* SRI P. NATESAN :—" Adult suffrage is going to be worse. I do not want the Congress people to go forward, leaving the poor masses in their wretched condition. They should realize that they are the representatives of the people. They must stand up and try to supply the poor people with the promised food, clothing and accommodation. They said, 'உண்ண உணவு கொடுக்கிறோம். குடி இருக்க வீடு கொடுக்கிறோம். உடுக்க உடை கொடுக்கிறோம்.' Where are those promises? Are they going to give shelter to the poor masses by providing houses? Are they going to give better wages to the labourers? They cannot go on saying, we are in a majority and nobody can question us."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is speaking as if it is a general discussion."

SRI P. NATESAN :—" What I want to impress upon the Hon. the Minister is that they should go slow in regard to this Prohibition programme."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member, Mr. Ibrahim, can formally move his cut motion and afterwards he can speak."

M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Shall I speak on my cut motion, now? "

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Usually, the procedure is that if one member has moved the cut motion, the others can speak on it."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Then, let Mr. Batchelor speak on the present cut motion."

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* B. W. BATCHELOR:—" I do not propose to detain the House for long after the vehement speech of my hon. Friend, Mr. Natesan, but I would say only one word about Prohibition. The word itself implies an interference. There is that continual opposition with the liberty of the subject which should make my hon. Friends sitting opposite flinch from carrying this thing too far. Do they really believe that they can compel all the people to be moral by legislation? If they do, then, they will have a very big programme of legislation on their hands. After all, Sir, the prophets, the sages, the religious reformers and the teachers of all times have tried to dissuade men from being immoral. Can you tell me, Sir, when such people have failed, what is it that the Hon. the Minister has which all these people had not got? From that point of view, I notice that some gentlemen sitting on this side of the House do not believe in their own poet—I refer to the Great Omar Khayam—who said, ' I often wonder what the Vintners ' buy one half so precious as the goods they sell. Well, Sir, you are not going to attain your object; you are only going to lose your revenue. Most of the members sitting on this side of the House do not believe in this policy. It is a great pity and a great evil to this Province because much of the revenue lost by means of this Prohibition programme, could have been spent on schemes beneficial to the masses. With these words, Sir, I support my hon. Friend who moved the cut motion."

M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move "

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" I beg to point out that the cut motion which is to be moved by Mr. Ibrahim is different from the cut motion on which discussion is going on."

MR. SPEAKER:—" After all, they are all token cut motions. The hon. Member may speak on the cut motion of which he has given notice."

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, in speaking upon this cut motion I really want to give some explanation with regard to the Prohibition programme of the Government. Sir, that programme is not a new thing. Government have already decided to introduce Prohibition as early as last year itself, though they carry out that policy bit by bit. Sir, when the budget proposals were before the House, this Prohibition policy was also considered and this new item of expenditure to the extent of Rs. 16 lakhs could have been contemplated even at that time. They have written in the explanatory note that the total expenditure on the staff will be Rs. 16,88,200 per annum recurring and Rs. 1,72,700 non-recurring. This expenditure, therefore, they ought to have foreseen and they ought to have made provision in the Budget itself, because it is not advisable to incur the expenditure of such a vast amount by means of a supplementary grant. Meeting the expenditure to be incurred by means of a supplementary budget does not show the grit of the

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Government with regard to this policy. So, I say this grant ought to have been placed before this House even when the official year began.

" Sir with regard to the Prohibition programme itself, I invite the Hon. Minister's attention that further provision should be made for propaganda work in the rural parts. They must also solve the unemployment problem arising out of the toddy tappers going out of work on account of the introduction of this programme. With regard to the propaganda work, I understand that that work is being carried by certain committees, but most of those committees are official committees. What I request of the Government is to see that non-official committees are also appointed in the enforcement of this programme, because these non-officials will be helpful to go to the village and take out statistics and thus help in the enforcement. Necessary provision should also be made for the amelioration of the condition of the unemployed tappers. With these words, I support the cut motion."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, while moving the cut motion, I should like to say a few words on the expenditure to be incurred on the staff to be employed on this Prohibition work. Even in the explanatory note circulated by the Hon. the Minister, it is not stated how much staff is going to be employed. They did not make that point clear in the report. Even at this stage, I would like to know how much staff the Hon. Minister wants. Sir, we are never opposed to the policy of Prohibition but at the same time, I should like to point out that some of the Congress members themselves are of the opinion that they should follow a uniform policy throughout India with regard to this matter. I do not know whether there is any uniform policy that has been chalked out by the Congress High Command with regard to this Prohibition policy. That point was raised in this House even before and the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition has not made that point clear.

" Sir, I find that some committees have been appointed for the enforcement of this programme, but I find in all those committees and also on the committees appointed for transport and other matters, only Congressmen, Congress M.L.As., are chosen. I should like to know the reason why the Communist members are not chosen to any of those committees. If it is a question of efficiency, then hon. Members of the Congress Benches will agree that there are such efficient people even on this side of the House. When such is the case, I do not know why Congressmen should only be appointed to those committees. I want the Hon. Minister to make this point clear. My submission is that the Government should not create room for a doubt that the Government is working only with the aid of Congress members. On behalf of the Communist Party, I will give the assurance to the popular Ministry that we are in full agreement with some of the policies of the Government and in matters concerning such policies, we

should be given a chance. Moreover, this policy of Prohibition can be successfully worked out only with the full co-operation of all sections of the people. Another point that I would urge on the Government is that they should go slowly with regard to this Prohibition policy.

" Then, Sir, the Government should have a contented staff for working out this programme successfully. They should have the co-operation of the staff in this matter. I do not want to cast any aspersions on the Government and on the Hon. the Minister. But I should stress the fact that if the staff appointed is inefficient, the money that is spent on the staff will be a waste.

" Sir, hon. Members are aware of the fact that when the hon. Member, Mr. B. S. Murthi, wanted information about the firing in the West Godavari district, we have heard the Leader of the House say that a non-official report has been received. Mr. Speaker, I do not question the relevancy of this matter, but I should like to point out that there is a discrepancy in the Government policy. We find that in certain cases, non-official committees are appointed to report. I ask, are the Government going to agree with the non-official report. I know they will be guided by the official version of the report which thoroughly differs from the non-official report. I do not know why the report submitted by a non-official committee composed of the members of the Congress Party should not be taken as final. I am not casting any aspersions on the officials but at the same time, I should like to make a request to the Hon. the Leader of the House that the people's representatives should also be given a chance on those committees.

" Sir, regarding the salaries of staff, the Hon. the Minister for Finance in answer to a question this morning did not give any definite reply with regard to the increase of dearness allowance to the Government servants. He cannot expect an efficient service from the dissatisfied staff employed on Prohibition; unless he agrees to the increase, Prohibition will certainly fail and there will be no use repenting afterwards. So, they must be given adequate dearness allowance. As a matter of fact, the United Provinces and the Bombay Governments have already accepted the Central Pay Commission's recommendations, and I do not know why the Government of Madras should refuse to implement those recommendations. The success of the policy of the Government with regard to Prohibition depends on a contented staff. After the 15th of December, we will find a most unfortunate situation and the Prohibition staff may strike work. The Hon. the Leader of the House and the Cabinet as a whole should take stock of the situation and act quickly."

1 p.m. * THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Gentleman seems to be going round and round and on this Excise programme, he talks of non-gazetted officer's strike, etc."

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† SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" I will explain to you how it is in order. I am afraid the Hon. Leader of the House did not care to understand it."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" I am very sorry. All that I said was that the hon. Gentleman should confine himself to the point at issue and not wander round and round the rugged rocks."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Sir, it will be seen from the cut motion printed on the agenda that I have specifically mentioned about the inadequate salaries of the staff and so I am referring to it."

MR. SPEAKER:—" No, no. I have already told the hon. Member that he should confine himself to the points raised in the cut motion of which he has given notice."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" It will be seen from the cut motion printed on the agenda paper that I intend to discuss the inadequate scales of pay given to the staff."

MR. SPEAKER:—" It is with reference to the Excise staff."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Yes, Sir. I will confine myself to it. The point that I want to drive home is that unless the salaries of the Excise department staff are raised to the level recommended by the Central Pay Commission, the policy of the Government in the Excise department is going to fail and that after the 15th of this month when the non-gazetted officers are forced to go on strike because of the policy of the Cabinet, there will be nobody to implement this programme and there will be nobody to get hold of those who violate Prohibition rules and regulations. That is why at least at this stage it would be well for the Government to go into details and see what can be done in the matter. I am sorry that even in the replies given by the Hon. Finance Minister he did not give any definite assurance that he would consider the matter favourably or accept the Central Pay Commissioner's recommendations so far as the dearness allowance is concerned. Today the main demand of the Excise staff in this connection is that they should be given the dearness allowance on the basis of the Central Pay Commission report. My request is that the Cabinet must come forward and accept it and after all dearness allowance is based on the cost of living and this has been in fact accepted by the Cabinet when they sanctioned Rs. 18 basing it on the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. Today when the Central Commission has recommended this much the Government should accept it. There is no use saying that the Madras Government has nothing to do with what the Central Government have recommended. Here I wish to point out that Mr. Karanth when he was Minister gave evidence before the Central Pay Commission on behalf of the Madras Government. So, it is wrong to say that this Government has nothing to do with the Central Government

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THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—" It was for Central Services and not in respect of Provincial Services."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Of course the Central Government can implement the recommendations of the Pay Commission so far as their servants are concerned. This Government should see that their recommendations to the Provincial Governments are also implemented and that the threatened strike of the non-gazetted officers, which nobody wants, is overted. On this question of the non-gazetted officers' strike I would appeal to the Government not to precipitate the strike and if at all any strike should take place, it is the Government that will be held responsible for it. There is no use saying that the people are behind the Government. I say that at least in this respect the people are not behind them and most of my friends in the Congress party are not behind the Government in the matter of the non-gazetted officers' strike."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, while speaking on this demand, I should at the outset, like to answer some of the points raised by the hon. Mr. Natesan and the hon. Mr. Batchelor. (Sri P. Natesan: 'Good.') Mr. Natesan pointed out that it was futile on the part of the Government to have launched on this policy . . ."

SRI P. NATESAN:—" May I observe, Sir, that I never said that. I only wanted the Government to go slow."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" He did say, as far as I remember, that the prohibition policy would not succeed. Well, I should like to emphasize that if prohibition is to succeed anywhere in the world, it is India and of all places in India it is this province of Madras which has been a pioneer in the field that can carry off the laurel. Sir, the hon. Mr. Natesan has asked the Government to go slow, but if this programme is to succeed, I wish to state that it is desirable that the Government should, on the other hand, go fast for it is evident that only when prohibition is extended to the entire province that it will be easy for the Government to enforce the scheme. It is because we do not have total prohibition in this province that difficulties arise with reference to the enforcement of the prohibition law. We are glad to learn that the State of Mysore has started a prohibition programme and that Cochin and the other States will also follow suit soon. If that happens, I feel sure that there is every chance for prohibition to succeed in this province.

" Sir, there is another point which my hon. Friend mentioned and that was that in these days of high prices when people were suffering, prohibition was ill-advised, but that is the very reason why the Government should proceed with their anti-drink programme for as a result thereof the poor have more money in their hands, and enables them to pay the current high prices. Had it not been the case men, women and children would have starved in these days of high cost of living because, the little money that the bread-winner earned would have been spent by him on drink.

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" Sir, Mr. Natesan asked why the Government did not consult public opinion in the matter. In this connection I wish to inform him that if a referendum were held in this province in regard to this question on the basis of adult franchise, the decision would be in favour of prohibition, for every woman would cast her vote for prohibition, and woman I may inform Mr. Natesan, constitute to-day the majority in this province. He may rest assured that so far as public opinion is concerned, the Government have it abundantly in their favour, for apart from women a considerable proportion of men also are in favour of prohibition.

" As to the financial implications of the measure, I may point out that the loss of revenue that it entails is already met by the sales tax. The new sales tax recently imposed will give the Government a revenue of Rs. 12 crores. This is in addition to the revenue they are already obtaining from the sales tax that was introduced during the last Congress Ministry. The loss of revenue as a result of prohibition will be about Rs. 17 crores per annum. This amount the Government will be able to re-imburse through the sales tax. The Government have already devised ways and means of meeting the cost of prohibition. Hence it is wrong to argue that because of prohibition their finances are hard hit.

" Sir, Mr. Batchelor remarked that when religious teachers have not succeeded in making men and women moral how could administrators succeed. But while religious teachers are not in a position to punish the wrong-doer in this world, but leave the punishment to the hereafter, administrators can enforce the law by means of penal provisions. The Penal Code has been brought into force in order to make people moral and it is succeeding to a large extent. Mr. Natesan said that people have been drinking from time immemorial. I ask, have not people been committing theft also from time immemorial? The Government have been weaning away people from their evil propensities by means of penal provisions. Likewise they intend to wean away people from the drink evil by their prohibition laws. Since the effect of prohibition is to raise the standard of living for the common man and give greater contentment, peace and happiness to his home, it is essential that the Government should go forward with their programme and dismiss from their minds for all times the idea of deriving any revenue at the expense of the misery, the squalor, the unhappiness of the poor, which is opposed to all canons of morality and justice. Hence the arguments that have been put forward by Mr. Natesan and Mr. Batchelor have fallen to the ground. (Sri P. Natesan: 'Thank you'). He has no answer to give."

* Sri P. NATESAN:—" May I know from the lady Member what she considers is the percentage of people who are drunkards in this province? "

Begum Sultan MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" I hope the Hon. Minister will enlighten my hon. Friend on that point. It may be 15 per cent or more. Whatever it may be, the point is that it is mainly the poor who constitute this number, hence it is not proper,

not moral to extract money from these people by allowing them to indulge in drink. We are not concerned with men who can afford to drink like Mr. Natesan; we are concerned with the masses, with the poor, whose wives know what it means for the husband in the family to be drunk. It is for the benefit of the common man that this measure has been brought forward.

" Mr. Speaker, Sir, having dealt with the arguments of those who are against prohibion, I wish to make a few suggestions to the Government for making their scheme a success. The Government should try to work the scheme more efficiently, more effectively and with greater vigour and rigour. I am of opinion that neither the Police staff nor the Excise staff are by themselves competent to deal with this problem. I would therefore request the Hon. Minister to associate with the members of the Police and the Excise departments, a band of educated young men inspired by the social ideal, who will work the scheme zealously, enthusiastically and in a missionary spirit. Above all, the Government should see to it that the officers who are posted to prohibition areas are not used to taking even a few sips of intoxicants. Mr. Batchelor is looking round at me. Perhaps he is imagining as to what would happen to a European official were he to be posted to a prohibition area. While in a cold country like Scotland a Britisher may feel the need for Scotch whisky in order to keep himself warm, I do not think he requires it in India. In a hot country like India there is no justification for anyone to indulge in drink. I should like the Hon. Minister to post to prohibition districts only such officers who are absolutely tea-totallers.

" Sir, another suggestion that I should like to place before the Hon. Minister is to see that the village headmen report all cases of illicit manufacture of liquor in their villages just as they are reporting cases of rioting, murder and other cognizable offences. Further, it is necessary to give greater publicity to the cause of prohibition. I should like the All-India Radio Stations both at Madras and Trichinopoly to do more in this direction than they are doing at present particularly in their rural programme. Public co-operation should also be enlisted in a large measure and efforts made to see that educated people and influential citizens in the villages give due publicity to the prohibition programme of the Government. I shall not use the word propaganda, because propaganda carries with it the significance of undeserved prominence being given to a cause. I hope the Hon. Minister will do all that he can to make prohibition a success. I know that he will do so, as he is a staunch Christian. It may be said that prohibition is not prevalent among Christians, but I know a number of staunch Christians who are tea-totallers and who believe in the efficacy of prohibition. I hope the Hon. Minister will not be perturbed by the criticisms that have been levelled against the prohibiton programme of the Government. If the Government will go forward unmoved and undeterred by the adverse remarks of those who are opposed to prohibition, let me assure them that they will succeed in the noble cause.

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" In conclusion, Sir, I should like to point out that what the Government have undertaken is not for the immediate present; it is mainly for the future. The real fruits of this prohibition programme will be borne in the course of the next ten or twelve years. The idea is to rear up a healthy future generation—healthy both in body and mind free from the vice of drink. If the Government will not lose heart by adverse criticisms, but persist in their policy, a time will come when the world will acknowledge that the policy pursued by the present Government was right."

MR. SPEAKER:—" At this rate we will not be able to finish even two demands. We have got 18 demands. If the members will take only 5 minutes I can allow one or two members to speak on each demand. Otherwise I will have to guillotine the demands." 1-15 p.m.

*N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to enter my vehement protest against the argument of the hon. Mr. Natesan. I wonder Sir alone among the Indian members of this House he seems to be every time opposed to every righteous cause of social reform

SRI P. NATESAN:—" Question, question.

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" He does not realise that he is in a minority of one and like William Wyndham, he pursues every time the same policy."

SRI P. NATESAN:—" That is where the credit lies."

*N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" While we congratulate the Government for having launched the prohibition programme we only want that they should also bring in ever so many other evils under this prohibition. I have in mind ganja, opium, cheeta bhang and even beedi. Sir, I only want that these evils must be eradicated before we can say that we have reformed our society. I can quite well understand the argument of Mr. Batchelor. I know that Christianity, particularly Roman Catholicism provides for the article of transubstantiations. But what I could not very much appreciate about Mr. Batchelor was that he should have cited the authority of Omar Khayam and should have stated that Muslims do believe in drink. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this poet of Iran has been misrepresented, misunderstood and misinterpreted. Was it not he that said in a very beautiful verse:

' Dust thou art to dust thou returnest
From dust unto dust under dust thou be
Sans *wine*, sans woman, sans wealth, sans all '

" I leave that matter at that but Mr. Speaker, one thing I would like to refer to and that is that I was wondering why the hon. lady Member of my party should have suggested that even where Prophets have failed the Criminal Code has succeeded. No, Mr. Speaker, I refute that argument. Mussalmans for the last 13 centuries have been for prohibition and we are not only one with the Congress Government in tackling this problem but we would go one step further and say ' Prohibition, prohibition, prohibition,

cost what it may '. Mr. Batchelor was referring to the antediluvian 19th century ideas of ' laissez-faire ' when he said that it curtails the liberty of the individual. When a citizen in society turns liberty to licence which ruins him are we still to say that as statesmen we should refrain from encroaching upon the rights of the individuals to do so? Sir, most of us, particularly of the way of the hon. Mr. Batchelor's thinking seem to refer to Shakespeare for the tragedies of everyday life. In our cheries, in our tenements, in every hearth and home which is born and bred in poverty, you can find that men, women and children have been ruined only due to this drink evil, and even he who runs can read these signs in our slums and say that there are tragedies in our homes more than we can find in Shakespeare's tragedies. My heart goes out in admiration for this act of the Government in bringing this most necessary reform before they attempt any other social reform.

" Mr. Speaker, one thing I feel and that is that it is being said sometimes that prohibition is not going to succeed in this province even as it has not succeeded elsewhere. That is an argument that has been answered by the hon. Begum Amiruddin. Let all the world have the lesson from this province that prohibition will be a cent per cent success. With the co-operation of all we will make this a cent per cent success."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting the demand I shall draw the attention of the Minister to two points only. The first is the Government must take every care to see that those who are accustomed to drink are not engaged in the ranks of the prohibition staff. I am not saying this as a joke because I am as serious as anybody else, I am anxious that our programme should not be a failure and we should have men with a purity of purpose and practice and therefore it would be absolutely necessary for the Government to see that those who are accustomed to drink are removed from the prohibition staff throughout these districts and may be kindly transferred to the departments of other Hon. Ministers. (Laughter.)

" The second point is about opium and other intoxicating things which are not actually a drink. The fixation of prices has got something to do with troubles in our border land areas like Vizagapatam district. The prices are not the same in our Presidency as those in Orissa. On account of their prices being lower than the prices we give here, there is a lot of smuggling going on and a good deal of it is coming across the border and there is plenty of illicit trade which the ordinary staff are not able to cope with or are winking at it for their own reasons and therefore I draw attention of the Hon. Minister to these two things with the hope that he will attend to them. I support the demand."

SRI K. A. NACHIAPPA GOUNDER:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is rather a surprise that my hon. Friend Mr. Natesan is oftentimes talking about prohibition in the same strain even though it has been made absolutely clear both in this House and all over the

province including a good majority of the public that this prohibition is a thing which is quite essential and must be carried through at all costs. As far as the arguments which he has put forth are concerned, I think Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin and Mr. Anwar have dashed them to the ground and there is no need for me to state anything more about them. As a matter of fact, it has been deplored that the province has lost revenue. I may point out that what has been lost to the province is after all in the pockets of the poor people who were addicted to this drink. It may be a loss to Government but after all it is poor people's money and it is the Government's duty to help these people. As far as their economic position is concerned there is no doubt that they are now able to make a better living on account of the prohibition scheme. We of the Prohibition Committee when we toured the districts found that the entire public were behind this scheme and they were so eager that they suggested all sorts of punishments to get rid of this drink evil altogether. They suggested collective fines, punitive police and such other things and it only shows their interest in the matter of prohibition. The Government have already begun this programme and after such a time as this there is no point in discussing at this length. As a matter of fact the demand before us was for the employment of the prohibition staff. There is no point in going about the whole policy of prohibition at this stage. That is not relevant.

" As far as the demand before us is concerned I find that good money has been allotted for the purpose of enforcing prohibition. I want to suggest that in introducing prohibition it is not a thing which can be stopped after one or two years but it has to run for all time to come. So it is necessary that we should see how economically we can carry it through. In the matter of enforcement it strikes me that if the general police is to take up the matter they can do somewhat better work and bring the offenders to book easily. Now the present staff are finding out the offences so to say a day after the affair. If the thing is entrusted to the general police with a limited area they can very well control them effectively. In this way the expenditure also may be much less than what is incurred now. It may be pointed out that the police have also control over prohibition now. The primary responsibility for finding out these illicit distillations is with the prohibition police. If this work is entrusted to the general police the work will be effective and there will also be saving in expenditure. There may be new recruitment for prohibition work. I would suggest in this connection new recruits can be trained in the same way as the police department and they can be roped in to do the work of the general police, enlisting all the staff so recruited and trained. That will go a long way to work the scheme with great success.

" In some of the places it is complained that in order to maintain some statistics cases are put forth. I was told this morning that the department in order to maintain statistics are able to put forth such cases. The Board of Revenue ask for statistics and

figures and when cases are going down they have to be pulled up and people are obliged to find out something to satisfy statistics. I would suggest in this connection that all such formalities will have to be put an end to and every effort must be made to see that this Act is enforced successfully and at the same time economically.

" These are the few points which I want to bring to the attention of the House in this connexion and after having said them I support this motion and I request that the points raised by me may be taken into consideration so as to work the prohibition programme and the enforcement side of it in a very comprehensive and in as economical a manner as possible."

MR. SPEAKER:—" The House will now adjourn for lunch and will meet again at 2-30 p.m."

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

* SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—" Mr. Speaker, I do not think I need take much time especially after the warning given by you. With regard to the question raised by one or two Members on the Opposition Benches whether after all prohibition could be enforced or whether it is desirable for us to lose the revenue from it, it is too late in the day to consider them. The Government have rightly or wrongly, I think rightly, decided in favour of prohibition and unless Government is convinced that it is impossible to enforce it, I do not think we need ever consider that question at all. I wish to say a few words how it could be more effectively enforced. I must confess that it is a fact that illicit distillation is going on at any rate in the Ceded districts of Cuddapah, Kurnool and Bellary and to a certain extent in Anantapur. (An hon. Member: 'What about Tinnevelly?') I am not so well acquainted with that district and I believe that it would be the same there also. But I am not also convinced that we cannot enforce prohibition. Whatever weight we may attach to propaganda for creating public opinion, in the end and ultimately, we have to rely on the long arm of Government in this matter and they need not hesitate to enforce it with some vigour. We are prepared to lose something like 12 crores this year and another 6 crores in addition the next year. We do not feel the least sorry for it. We must either believe in prohibition or not believe in prohibition. My friends Mr. Natesan and some others who preceded me seemed to have suggested that after all prohibition might be good but that we are losing a lot of money by way of revenue to the Government. I say that if it is good, the drink evil must be put an end to immediately and we ought not to take into account the loss in revenue. After all, what does the Government lose? The Government to-day represents the people and if in the interests of the people it is necessary that revenue should be lost, Government ought to be prepared to lose it. If it is really good, that is the thing to be done. Let us take the other position. If my friends could convince us that drink is good either for health or for other things, let us not tax the poor addicts at

all. If it is good for them why should a bottle of arrack or toddy costing eight annas or twelve annas be sold for Rs. 2 or Rs. 3? Why should we charge them like that and get the 18 crores of revenue from them? If it is good, this taxation has to be withdrawn altogether and a small incidence of taxation as we have in the case of consumer goods of one or two per cent might be levied. But now it is a hundredfold that we are getting from these poor people for whom my hon. Friends shed crocodile tears. The point to be borne in mind is that if drink is bad; if we are convinced that it is bad and it is neither in the interests of the individual nor that of the State then we must be prepared to lose this revenue. I believe some educated people say that prohibition may be good but in the present financial condition, we ought not to lose it. That is not an argument which can convince me; and this argument that we are going to lose revenue ought not in the least disturb us. Money is there and if it is necessary to tax let even the poor be taxed but before that the Government should consider who could bear the taxation better and the rich it is that must be taxed first for the sake of the revenue lost to the Province. I believe Government is waiting for the suggestion of the Committee that has been recently appointed for the purpose. I am afraid the matter is so plain and simple that it does not need a Committee to go to the eight districts, collect information as to how prohibition could be enforced and it makes for delay to which Government ought not to have been a party. I do not think that it is necessary for any Committee to report upon that matter. Here is the question of illicit distillation. Is it difficult for Government to see that it is put an end to? I am not in a position to see what the Committee is going to suggest. I do not understand why this Committee has been appointed if only for the sake of finding out ways and means of enforcing prohibition. As I once said, the staff that has so far been appointed is now found to be absolutely inadequate and Government being ultimately responsible for the enforcement of prohibition, should see that the urgent need for increasing them is met. They should immediately set about recruiting more men. I have consulted some Excise officials who are in charge of prohibition and most of them feel that the staff given to them is absolutely inadequate and the Police people in spite of their willingness to help the Excise people, have their own duties to perform and at times they are not in a position to help them at all. The matter is very urgent and Government must take immediate steps for recruiting more men for the purpose. So far as Sub-Inspectors are concerned, we have got recently trained up a number of young men, who are educated and if they are given a promise on good work shown, of being ultimately drafted into the other departments, particularly the Police Department—I believe they are given a short course of training of about six months—they would be an asset in the matter of enforcing prohibition. The departments to which the enforcement of prohibition is entrusted are the Police and the Excise Departments. All of us know that a number of them are themselves addicted to drink and secondly a fairly

good number of them are also amenable to corruption and these are facts which we must not lose sight of. I believe if young men are trained for this purpose and if they are asked to help these departments, it will go a good deal to enforce prohibition. Ryots in villages—I am referring to a few of them and not to all villages—have complained that illicit distillation is going on to such an extent that they are unable to get the labour population to help them in their agricultural work and they make such a lot of money that it is easily three to four times what they can get by other means and so there is a great deal of temptation for them to take to illicit distillation. The matter is going from bad to worse and unless effective and immediate steps are taken, it may not be possible to control illicit distillation at all. One other direction in which the Government can move is in regard to punishment for illicit distillation. The law as it exists to-day provides for imprisonment up to two years and a fine of Rs. 5,000 and not even a First-class Magistrate can impose such a punishment for he is competent to award sentences up to two years and a fine of Rs. 1,000 only. Usually, Second-class Magistrates are entrusted with these cases and they are not competent to give more than six months' imprisonment and generally they give about three months and even sometimes two months. The punishment is so low that it has never been deterrent especially as people are making a lot of money out of illicit distillation. Some time ago, I saw in the papers that Government are considering the question of legislation in this regard but so far nothing has come about. It is absolutely necessary that the number of First-class Magistrates should be increased or they could take steps to arm the Second-class Magistrates with such powers so far as prohibition offences are concerned. I can claim some knowledge of the villages in my area and I feel that unless heavy punishments are given, no amount of propaganda would be of any avail. The complaint is being made that if public opinion is in favour then why will not the people help? People in the villages cannot be so easily charged that they are not helping in regard to enforcement of prohibition. The position is like this. The people who take to the manufacture of illicit arrack are—I would not like to call them the riff-raff of society—mostly poor people and the temptation before them is very great in that they earn twice or thrice of what they could by taking to other work. There are the ryots in the villages who do not believe in making such easy money and they are not accustomed to make money out of such things but if they complain to the authorities, great harm is done to them. Most of the poor people do not have any lands and they do not possess any hay-ricks but the richer people do have them,
2 45 p.m. to provide fodder for their catttle. These people go at night and set fire to the hay-ricks of the ryots who may complain. And that is why the ryots refuse to give any information against those who manufatcure illicit liquor. Besides they have not sufficient confidence in the prohibition staff that they would keep the secret. I know it as a matter of fact, for when I asked the ryots why they did not give information of the manufacture of

illicit liquor they point—blank told me what would become of them if they were to do so. Such is their lack of confidence in the staff. I told them they could give the information to me confidentially in a letter, that I alone would open my letters, that I do not allow even my clerk to open my letters, and that I would give the information to the prohibition staff and they would take action in the matter. This I was able to do in actual practice and in this way some cases have been discovered. If similar things were done it will go a long way to make prohibition a success.

"There is another matter to which I wish to refer for a minute. (The bell was rung.) Only one minute, Sir, and I will finish. There is a general delay in, I would even say, inordinate delay, in giving punishments to the miscreants who are booked. Particularly in Cuddapah I know some instances where the cases have been going on for months together. What happens is, in the meanwhile the miscreants go back to their village, freely distil arrack, sell it, get enough money for themselves and to give fees to their lawyers and bribe the magistrate if amenable. So I suggest some steps should be taken immediately for speedy disposal of prohibition cases. The present staff is inadequate and we need not wait till the Prohibition Inquiry Committee submit their report. There should be a fresh recruitment of staff of prohibition guards and sub-inspectors from the ranks of young men imbued with a national spirit and a sense of enthusiasm to work the scheme of prohibition. With these words I support the Demand."

MR. SPEAKER:—"At this rate I fear we will not finish even two Demands. I think it is better if I allow only two or three minutes for each speaker hereafter. I have received several slips from several Members requesting for an opportunity to speak. Unless the Party Whips had organized previously nothing can be done. I shall allow three minutes for each speaker."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"May I respectfully submit that we are not hearing from the Opposition side. By allowing Congress Members to speak we are hearing nothing new."

*MR. L. C. PAIS:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Demand and in doing so I may be permitted to say a few words on the subject of prohibition. I only wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister regarding one or two points which concern a section of the people, namely, Indian Christians. I may straightaway say that so far as the Indian Christians are concerned, they are for prohibition, even though their religion allows drink, on the ground of expediency if not on any other ground. I would say so far as the rights of Indian Christians for the use of mass wine, they have agitated for it for a number of years past to see that the Act is amended so that they may have statutory exemption for the use of altar wine. I remember some time back when the Hon. Minister moved for supplementary grant I was one of those who brought to his notice that the right of Christians for the use of sacramental wine should be recognized and that the Act should be

suitably amended so as to satisfy the requirement of Christians. I remember our Minister on the floor of this House assured us that our suggestion would be considered and proper amendments introduced to meet the particular need of the Christians. I submit we have also seen him in person and have memorialized also, but we find so far, this particular grievance has not been redressed. I only wish this grievance of Christians may be taken into consideration and an amending Bill be brought forward soon.

"One other grievance I would like to bring to the notice of Government is that in Mangalore, a number of people have been given permits to purchase liquor, but it is difficult for them to get liquor as there is nobody in the District who is empowered to sell. It is my desire that the Minister should bestow some attention on this point and see that those who are actually given permits get liquor in their own district. With these words I support the Demand."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—"Mr. Speaker Sir, இப்பொழுது நமது முன்னால் கனம் டேனியல் தாமஸ் அவர்களால் பிரேரேபிக்கப்பட்டுள்ள இந்த பட்ஜெட் டிமாண்டை ஆதரித்து ஒன்றிரண்டு வார்த்தைகள் பேச விரும்புகிறேன். இப்பொழுது இந்த administration-ல் நாம் சீர்திருத்தம் செய்யவேண்டிய பல விஷயங்கள் உள. அதில் முக்கியமானது ஒன்று. சாதாரணமாக போலீஸ் டிபார்ட்டுமெண்டிலிருந்து retire-ஆன constable-களை இந்த டிபார்ட்டுமெண்டுக்கு recruit பண்ணி இருக்கிறார்கள். சாதாரணமாக இது எல்லோருக்கும் தெரிந்த விஷயம்தான்: போலீஸ் காரர்கள் அதிகம் retire ஆனவர்கள் எந்த முறையில் இருப்பார்கள் என்பது. அவர்களில் பலர் குடிப்பழக்கத்தையே அதிகமாக கொண்டுள்ள வர்களாக இருக்கலாம். இப்படிப்பட்டுள்ள நிலைமையில் அவர்களை இந்த டிபார்ட்டுமெண்டில் போடுவதால் அந்தப் பழக்கத்தை அதிகப்படுத்தவும் மிகவும் பழகிக்கொள்ளவும் ஹேதுவாகும். அதைத் தவிர இன்னும் மற்ற Excise Department-லிருந்தும் புதிதாகவும் recruit பண்ணினாலும் அவர்களும் காலேஜ் மாணவர்களாக இருந்து வருபவர்களானால் அவர்கள் உண்மையாகவும் நம்பிக்கையாகவும் டிபார்ட்டுமெண்டில் வேலை பார்ப்ப தோடு அவர்கள் டிபார்ட்டுமெண்டிலுள்ள தப்பிதங்களைக் கண்டுபிடித்தும் மனது வைத்தும் ஒழுங்காகவும் நடப்பார்கள். இன்னும் அரசாங்கத்தார் என்ன சட்டமியற்றுகிறார்களோ அதையும் நிறைவேற்றி வைப்பார்கள். அந்த முறையில் recruit பண்ணும்படியாக கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களை நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"மற்றொன்று; காங்கிரஸ்காரர்களும், காந்திஜியிடம் பக்தியுள்ளவர் களும் உண்மையாக Prohibition-ல் நம்பிக்கையுள்ளவர்களுமானவர் களுக்கு வயது அதிகமாக ஆகி இருந்தாலும் அவர்களுக்கு qualification இருந்தால் அவர்களை இந்த டிபார்ட்டுமெண்டுக்கு recruit பண்ணினால் அவர்கள் ஒழுங்காகவும் இந்த குடி பழக்கத்தை யடையாமலும் Prohibition successful ஆக நடக்கும்படியாகவும் வேலை செய்வார்கள். ஆகையால் வயது அதிகமாக இருந்தாலும் அவர்களை அதிகமாக நியமித்து இந்த டிபார்ட்டுமெண்டுக்கு recruit செய்து அவர்களுக்கு வயது exemption கொடுக்கவேண்டும்.

"அடுத்தபடியாக இப்பொழுது எட்டு ஜில்லாக்களிலும் Prohibition கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகமொத்தம் 16 ஜில்லாக்களில் Prohibition வந்திருக்கிறது. இந்த 16 ஜில்லாக்களிலும் இது successful ஆக நடந்தால் இதை மற்ற எட்டு ஜில்லாக்களுக்கும் extend பண்ணலாம். இந்த 16 ஜில்லாக்களிலும் இது successful ஆக நடக்கிறது என்று மக்களுக்கு நம்பிக்கை உண்டாகும்படி செய்யவேண்டும். இதனால் இப்பொழுது 16 கோடி ரூபாய் நஷ்டமாகி இருக்கிறது (some interruptions). நான் என்

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இடைய அபிப்பிராயத்தைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். அதில் நம்பிக்கை கொண்ட பிறகு மற்ற 8 ஜில்லாக்களிலும் இதைக்கொண்டு வரலாம். 16 ஜில்லாக்களில் திருப்திகரமாக நடக்கிறதா என்று பார்த்துகொண்டு பாக்கியிலும் கொண்டு வரலாம் என்று கனம் மந்திரியை கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.''

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" On a point of order, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—" The previous speaker has not said anything for the hon. Member to rise on a point of order."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, one or two friends tried to make out a point by saying that the Government must adopt a policy of 'Go slow' regarding Prohibition. But, Sir, I am of the opinion, as many others are, who have bestowed some thought on this matter, that such a policy is not tenable in this matter. For to make Prohibition a success it must be introduced throughout the Province as soon as possible. Sir, partial Prohibition by itself militates against successfully carrying out the scheme. In this connexion some of our friends bewail the fact that so much as 17 crores is being lost to the State on account of Prohibition policy. They also say that only five per cent of the population of the people have been affected by this drink evil. But they forget one fact, and that is, it is from the five per cent of the population they have been getting this 35 per cent of the revenue of the province, and according to them this five per cent of the population are the poorest of the poor people and it is from them we have been getting this 35 per cent of the revenue of the province. It is against any canon of taxation to tax a people who cannot afford to pay a tax, not to say a heavy tax. Therefore, Sir, it is very unreasonable on our part to ask Government to continue this source of revenue and it is very unreasonable to expect to be benefitted at the expense of these poor people, who according to some friends form only five per cent of the population. As stated by Mr. Koti Reddi, if you think it is not an evil you should not tax them at all. You should allow the people free and you should not levy any excise tax on drink.

" Then, Sir, Mr. Batchelor said that religions have failed to effect Prohibition. I would remind him and tell him that religion has not failed. Islam as a matter of fact has succeeded very wonderfully. You will find only less than one per cent of Muslims indulge in drink. When it is practicable among one set of people it must be practicable among other sets of people as well, for they are all human beings. It is too late in the day to think of retracting. Therefore I congratulate the Ministry on their firmness in the matter.

" I only want them to be more earnest in enforcing the policy of Prohibition and see that it is introduced in the whole province. In this connection even on a previous occasion I said that the tappers who were thrown out of employment must be provided for by the Government. I do not think that the Government have so far taken up the matter very seriously. It is very necessary that these people should be provided for. Even in the matter of

recruiting the staff for enforcing Prohibition I suggest that some of the ex-tappers should be recruited as constables and as other servants for the purpose of enforcing prohibition. With these words, Sir, I support the demand."

3 p.m. " * SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" day I never thought of speaking but after my hon. Friend, Mr. Kosalram, I am tempt I shall not take more than half a minute Friend, Mr. Kosalram, said that the enfor in the remaining eight districts should be budget and that only after we make Prohib other sixteen districts we should introduce tricts. I do not know, Sir, what he means our idea, that is the idea of the Party to wh to belong is this. We are committed to the and we have said that we would bring in P the Province. My district is one of the ei Prohibition is yet to be introduced. I d Mr. Kosalram wants it for his district, nam but we must have it in our district of Ramna

SRI P. NATESAN:—" On a point of information, Sir, is the hon. Member in charge of the whole of his district? "

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" I represent my district, Sir, as Mr. Natesa Mudaliar represents and speaks on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce and on behalf of the merchants in the Province. I am entitled to speak for the whole of my district because I represent the people of Ramnad district. With these few words, Sir, I support the Demand."

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad that we have had a debate on the policy of Prohibition of the Madras Government. I am sure the whole House has appreciated the various aspects of the policy of Prohibition that have been brought out in the course of the debate. I am also glad that my hon. Friend, Mr. P. Natesa Mudaliar has placed forward his own view-point. My only objection is that he claims that his view-point is not merely the view-point of Mr. Natesa Mudaliar but of all the public. There, Sir, I lodge my protest. I say that he is entitled to have his own private view but let him not labour under the delusion that his personal view in any appreciable measure represents public opinion throughout the length and breadth of this Province.

" Certain representations have been made on the floor of the House, particularly by my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkateswarlu, that certain parties are sought to be excluded from participation in the committees relating to Prohibition in the Province. I would ask him to get rid of that notion. I am glad that so far as the policy of Prohibition is concerned we are on a practical programme, a programme for the happiness and upliftment of the masses of the people of our province in which the Hindus, the Muslims and

Christians, the Congress and the Muslim League and also the Communists and every section of the people of this country can join together as brothers and work wholeheartedly in co-operation for the beneficial purpose which the Government has in view. I would therefore assure him that so far as the District Prohibition Committees are concerned it is the desire of the Government and it shall be the earnest and anxious solicitude of the Government to bring in every section of public opinion and the representation of every party on to these committees so that there can be widespread and wholehearted co-operation in the matter of the enforcement of Prohibition. I am glad that some of the points raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Natesan, have already been answered by the hon. the Lady Member, Begum Sultan Amiruddin and also by other Members speaking from different sides of the House. I am glad my work has been considerably eased and many of the points that have been raised by Mr. Natesa Mudaliar have been effectively answered. I am sure that in the next debate on Prohibition which may take place he would have learnt by the answers that he has heard on the floor of the House and revised his opinions and view-points on Prohibition.

"It is good for once that we have a different point of view. After all in a free country, in a democratic Assembly like this, it is good to have different view-points put forward. They at least put the Government on caution so that there may be a proper functioning of the democratic Assembly. Even in courts of law if an accused is undefended in certain cases the State engages a counsel at State expense so that he may put forward the case for the other side. If Mr. Natesa Mudaliar plays the devil's advocate in the matter of prohibition I shall welcome his view on the question."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Certainly, every time."

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"I was very much interested to hear the speech of Mr. Batchelor and indeed the points that he raised were of general interest. He asked: Is it right on the part of the Government to curtail the liberty of the subject, the freedom of the citizens of a Free India in the matter of their taking to drink? I submit that that is a fundamentally wrong notion, a radically mischievous conception of the idea of freedom and liberty. Freedom and liberty do not mean freedom and liberty to do as you please, to satisfy your own tastes and inclinations and cravings, if necessary, vices also. Freedom and liberty mean, freedom and liberty to give your best and most valuable contribution for the well-being of the life of the community and the country at large. That is the freedom into which we have entered. That is the true conception of freedom. I am sure that the enforcement of the policy of Prohibition would not be construed at all as a curtailment of freedom by the people of the Province. After all the State is responsible for the well-being

of the individual and the community. It is a primary responsibility on the part of the State which it cannot under any circumstances divest itself of. We know by experience that the evil effects of drink are not only confined to the individual but extend to the family; extend to the village and affect the community at large. Villages become brawling places and quarrelling scenes. Who as an ordinary decent citizen can put up with the common language of these drunkards? As a result of this drunkenness our jails are filled up and our hospitals are filled up. In a free country when we are going to give adult franchise are we going to have the votes of drunkards as citizens of a free country? My hon. Friend Mr. Natesa Mudaliar was asking: what is the percentage of these people who are addicted to drink? Well, Sir, on an estimation it may be somewhere between 10 to 15 per cent. Mr. Ismail rightly pointed out that these are persons who are the poorest of the poor. They are the people who can most ill-afford to spend this money which they spend on the drink thereby depriving themselves, their families and children, relations and villagers of all chances of a happy, decent and contended living. Therefore it is, Sir, that the State is enforcing this policy of prohibition as a measure for the uplift of the economic and social status of the masses of the people of the country.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Natesa Mudaliar asked: 'Well, you Congress people promised to provide the masses of the people with food, with clothing and also houses. Is this Prohibition policy going to give any of these things?' I think, Sir, the hon. lady Member, Begum Amiruddin has helped me by replying to that aspect of the point raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Natesa Mudaliar. I should like to ask him, on whose behalf he has raised all these objections. If it is on behalf of the Hon. Finance Minister, Mr. Gopala Reddi, I may tell him, Sir, that Mr. Gopala Reddi is very well able to take care of the finances of the Province and therefore the unsolicited, superfluous services of Mr. Natesa Mudaliar are not at all required. Instead

SRI P. NATESAN:—"May I observe, Sir, that even the Hon. Finance Minister has to come before this House with every kind of taxation proposal which are really repugnant to the public of this Province?"

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"May I point out, Sir, that there is no question of repugnancy to the Province. All the taxes that have been put, the people have willingly borne for the simple reason that they are in favour of Prohibition. I reiterate it, Sir."

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"I may also tell him, Sir, that whenever Mr. Gopala Reddi has come before this House for more money he has had the almost unanimous support of the House for all his financial measures.

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" The other question, I want to ask him is: Is he speaking on behalf of the drunkards? Is Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar speaking on behalf of the ordinary villager of the Province? I am sure that here again the drunkard will himself wholly disclaim all the advocacy of Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar. Recently when I was introducing the Prohibition programme in the Madura district I had before me a man who has been drinking for the last 25 years. He told me: ' My name is Sundararajan. I have been drinking for the last 25 years. You introduce Prohibition and I will never think of the toddy shop hereafter '. That is the position of the actual toddy drinker. I would submit, Sir, that Mr. Natesan is now as it were mid-air. He is neither in heaven nor on earth. If he is talking on behalf of the Hon. Finance Minister, he does not require his help. If he is talking on behalf of the villager, he himself, his wife and children and all the members of his family will repudiate the advocacy of Mr. Natesa Mudaliyar in this matter.

Apart from that, Sir, the main question that has been considered by the hon. Members was with regard to the policy of enforcement. I agree that the Government of Madras are losing a substantial source of revenue in implementing the policy of Prohibition which comes to about 17 crores. I may also mention here that these 17 crores do not represent the actual money spent by the 5 or 10 per cent of the population on drink. The actual drink bill of the Province is something like four times that amount that is something like 70 crores of rupees spent by the 10 per cent of the people. When the Government of Madras are prepared to sacrifice this source of 17 crores of revenue it means that the Government of Madras are prepared to enforce the policy of Prohibition with all the vigour and enthusiasm they can possibly command. I would submit that this is a matter for congratulation. My hon. Friend Mr. Koti Reddi said that we would want more staff. One of the first essentials for the enforcement of this policy is adequacy of staff. There is also the view of my hon. Friend Mr. Kosalram and he said that we should take special care not to take new recruits from the older police servants. The position is this, Sir. So far as the higher ranks of the service are concerned, the Excise Inspectors, Assistant Commissioners and so on, are taken from the regular Police and the Excise department. After all there are a number of officers in the Excise department and they have to be provided. Therefore the policy of the Government is to recruit the higher officers from the existing Services in the Excise and Police departments. So far as the subordinate staff is concerned to a very large extent we are taking new recruits for appointment as Prohibition Sub-Inspectors, the petty officers, guards and constables. Some time back I had the opportunity of visiting the Recruits' School at Bellary. I saw there some of our young men who have been recruited for training as Sub-Inspectors and petty officers. I found that they are as fine a body of young men as any country

can boast of in the present time. I am sure that these young men who have been recruited for the Prohibition department will render a very good account of themselves. I am sure that with the co-operation of the people, not only with their co-operation, but also with co-operation of every department of Government—after all this is more or less a totalitarian programme—the programme can be properly enforced. This is a programme in which every section of the people and every section of the officials should take their part. This is a scheme in which not only the prohibition officials but also every official of every department of the Government, the village munsif, the karnams the revenue officials concerned and also the public will have to co-operate in order to have it properly enforced. It is only by widespread co-operation that this measure of prohibition can be successfully implemented throughout the length and breadth of the Province.

" My hon. Friend Mr. Ismail said that one of the important things which has to be done in connexion with the policy of prohibition and which has not been thus far very much attended to by the Government according to his opinion is about the provision of employment to the toddy tappers. I would submit that the Government are very well alive to the necessity and importance of providing employment for all the people thrown out of employment as a result of the Prohibition programme.

" Very intensive efforts are being made by Government for providing employment for the ex-toddy tappers. In the four districts of Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore there are about 21,000 ex-toddy tappers. Of these, about 10,000 have already been enrolled as members of co-operative societies in Salem alone. A large number of co-operative societies for the manufacture of jaggery have been registered and large quantities of jaggery have been produced in these four districts.

3-15 p.m. ' Sir, when we introduced prohibition in the West Coast districts of Malabar and South Kanara, there again we were confronted with the same problem in a larger measure than in the other districts. We have been making intensive efforts for making provision for these ex-toddy tappers. In Malabar and South Kanara there are a large number of palm trees of the coconut variety. With regard to palmyra trees the Government accepted the policy of allowing these trees to be tapped by means of a licence issued to enrolled members of co-operative societies. In the Palghat division of South Malabar there are a large number of palmyra trees and a large number of co-operative societies have been registered for the manufacture of jaggery. But in other places there are a large number of coconut trees. There has been a certain amount of hesitation on the part of the Government in allowing coconut trees to be tapped for jaggery making. At the same time they are confronted with the problem of providing employment for 20,000 ex-toddy tappers in Malabar and about 10 to 11 thousand in South Kanara. Confronted with the hugeness of the problem

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the Government have allowed coconut trees also to be tapped for the manufacture of jaggery in selected areas where there is a concentration of coconut trees and tappers. In North Malabar and South Kanara co-operative societies have been formed for the manufacture of coconut jaggery under the strict supervision of the officers of the department. The Government are doing their best not only in the matter of manufacture of jaggery but also in various other directions. In Ayodhyapuram we have started a rug-making factory. Elsewhere we have started land colonization schemes and poultry farms and milk unions. Every possible avenue is being explored by the Government for the purpose of providing employment to the ex-toddy tappers. I may assure the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition that the Government are deeply alive to the importance and the necessity of providing employment to the ex-toddy tappers.

" Sir, so far the question of enforcement is concerned, the Government are anxious to provide the necessary staff for the enforcement of prohibition, but success cannot be achieved by Government staff alone. The hon. Member Mr. Koti Reddi said, the main part has to be played by Government officers. He also suggested that certain amendments should be made in order to provide for more rigorous punishment for prohibition offences. Sir, in this matter, we must have a sense of perspective. So far as illicit distillation offences are concerned, they are of course punished more rigorously. So late as 1942, an amendment was passed to the Madras Prohibition Act by which sentences under certain sections of the Act for illicit distillation were enhanced from 6 months to 2 years. But most of these offences are now being tried by second-class magistrates who cannot inflict a punishment of more than six months. The Government have under consideration the appointment of honorary first-class magistrates who are empowered to inflict a punishment up to two years for the purpose of trying prohibition offences and also for relieving congestion in courts.

" Sir, the hon. Member Mr. L. C. Pais raised a point about mass wine. The question is being examined by the Government. An amendment is under the consideration of the Cabinet and after the Cabinet has considered the matter, it will be placed before the Assembly.

" Sir, as regards extension of prohibition, the hon. Member Mr. Swaminathan was rather anxious about Ramnad. I can assure him that when prohibition is extended to other districts it will be extended to Ramnad, because it is bordering the present prohibition districts of Tanjore, Madura and Trichinopoly. I thought that Ramnad should be included in the present year's programme itself and if prohibition is to be effective in Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Madura, it should be introduced in Ramnad also which borders these districts and has a vast coast line. Sir, while the Government are anxious to implement the programme as soon as possible, they are anxious to consider dispassionately

the realities of the situation. They have appointed an Enquiry committee. The Government wanted an independent committee to go into the whole question and suggest ways and means by which the enforcement can be tightened up so that, as a result of the various measures adopted by the Government the benefits that will ensue to the poorer sections of the people will enable India to become not only a free country but also a happy and prosperous country. I would therefore request my hon. Friend to withdraw his cut motion."

SRI P. NATESAN :—" I shall certainly withdraw the cut motion. But I should say that in spite of the lecture of the Hon. Minister, I am not convinced that what he has stated is God's truth."

The cut motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

Demand II Excise was put and carried.

The grant was made.

DEMAND VIII—IRRIGATION.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I move, Sir—

that Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 400 *under Demand VIII—Irrigation.'*

The Demand relates to four items which are explained in the note circulated to hon. Members."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" I move—

' that the allotment of Rs. 400 *for Irrigation be reduced by Re.* 1.'

My object is to discuss the delay in the investigation of the Ramapadasagar Project Scheme.

" Sir, I do not mean to say that the Government are unnecessarily delaying the Ramapadasagar scheme. I know the Cabinet, particularly the Hon. Minister for Irrigation is anxious to hurry up the scheme to the best of his ability. But there are some things which stand in his way. I only request them to expedite the scheme so that the districts to be benefitted by the scheme may be made prosperous. Moreover, Sir, the whole of the Andhra country will be grateful to the Hon. Minister for Irrigation if this scheme materialises soon. Sir, this scheme should not be counterposed to the schemes intended for the development of Rayalaseema. Special attention must be paid to the latter because it is backward. I learnt from one of the replies given by the Hon. Minister with regard to the Venkatareddi village works that the policy of the Government in the matter of irrigation works in Rayalaseema is not to be guided by financial considerations alone. But I was surprised to find the Hon. Minister saying that the scheme would be financially a loss and that money could be spent on some other work. It may be that we may have to spend a few thousand rupees more.

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It may be that only 100 acres will be irrigated: But even that is a great gain in Rayalaseema which is a dry area where people are suffering for want of food. My only request is that this Ramapadasagar scheme should not be counterposed to the schemes intended for the development of Rayalaseema. There is no contradiction between the two. Both can be attended to. If there is a will, there will be a way out."

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, in seconding the cut motion, I want to place two or three aspects of the question before the House. The House is well aware that the Government is very anxious to carry out irrigation schemes throughout the Presidency. I want to bring to the notice of the House that the drainage system in the Cauvery delta is not given as much attention as it ought to be given. There, the possibilities of irrigation have been exploited to the full, but without proper drainage, the productivity of the land will go down. Some 15 or 20 years ago, even if there was rain for 10 or 15 days together, the area was not inundated, but now the whole area is inundated even if there is rain for one or two days. The crops fail miserably. The real reason is the absence of a separate drainage canal throughout the delta. Some channels have been ear-marked as drainage channels. But they are used as irrigation channels in the upper portion and as drainage channels in the lower portion. I think there should be a central canal running through the Cauvery delta area which should drain the whole area so that any unusual rain may not adversely affect the crops in the area.

" The second is, I want to know the details with regard to the scheme in the last item of the demand. No elaborate details are given as is done in the last demand with regard to the electricity cables and other things, and about the possibilities of the scheme, namely, the extent of land that will be irrigated and so on. I would like the Hon. Minister to give us some details with regard to the scheme itself.

" Then, Sir, I now come to the second item in the demand. A sum of Rs. 2 lakhs has been provided for the purchase of Fordingham steel sheet piles. I do not understand what is the real significance of this sentence appearing in the note:—

'The entire amount of Rs. 2 lakhs will be utilised during the current year.'

Above that it is stated:—

'The Government sanctioned the purchase in the current year of 560 pairs of Fordingham steel sheet piles at a cost not exceeding Rs. 2 lakhs for use upon works relating to Irrigation and Electricity Departments after meeting the requirements of the Ramapadasagar Project.'

I want to know whether these are intended mainly for Ramapadasagar Project or for other irrigation works also. If it is the intention of the Government to spend this amount for the new project, my submission is that it relates to capital expenditure and must come under Grant XXXV or some other grant. So far as irrigation is concerned, if it is to be brought under new schemes, the

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expenditure should be met as capital outlay from borrowed capital outside current revenue. If it is intended for electricity purposes and not for irrigation purposes, I want an explanation from the Hon. Minister whether it is proper to include this item in this Grant.

3-30 p.m. "Another thing I want to refer to is the neglect of kudimaramath especially in the Cauvery delta. There is a special Act applicable to the Cauvery delta area according to which irrigation channels have to be kept in proper repair and the Government have to see that kudimaramath is done every year. If the mirasdars do not carry out kudimaramath work, the revenue officials themselves can execute the work and recover the cost from the mirasdars. My submission is that the kudimaramath work has not been attended to till now and that it has been woefully neglected. If the work is carried out, I can assure the House that the food production in the Cauvery delta area can be increased even by 15 per cent.

"With these words, I second the cut motion."

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demand moved by the Hon. Minister for Public Works. In doing so, I beg to offer a few remarks.

"The necessity for big as well as small irrigation schemes is unquestioned, especially in view of the extraordinary times of food scarcity through which we are passing. I am sure the carrying out of irrigation schemes in any part of the Province will help the rest of the Province, because we are leading an integrated life. If crores of rupees are spent on the Tungabhadra and the Ramapadasagar Projects, the resultant benefit will be not only for the people living in the Andhra desa. If one part of the Province is surplus, it will certainly be of help to the deficit areas. The Godavari Anicut Project, which is supposed to harness about 10 per cent of the waters of the Godavari, has made the district a surplus district. The Ramapadasagar Project aims at conserving about 25 per cent of the waters of the Godavari. The extraordinarily good results of the project will benefit not only the districts immediately affected by it but also the districts as far as Madras. I hope that as a result of the conference at Delhi, which was attended by our Hon. Minister, the Ramapadasagar Project will be executed with the utmost expedition that it richly deserves. In this connexion, I wish to make one observation. The Special Engineer explained the project to the Legislators at a meeting held in the Banqueting Hall. In the course of his remarks, he said that the Government might expect a return of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent. I discussed the question with some of those who were interested in the financial aspect also. They told me that it would be wrong to estimate the return at only $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 per cent and that, if correctly assessed, it might go up to $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 per cent even in the initial stage. The experience of the Godavari Project also supports this view. Originally its

return was forecast at 4 per cent, but it is now yielding more than 10 per cent. Therefore, the Ramapadasagar Project should not be viewed in the light of the remarks made by the Special Engineer. I may also state that in view of the Betterment Tax that the Government expect from the vast area that is going to be benefited, the revenue figures also are bound to be very encouraging. I make a special appeal to the Hon. Minister to do all he can to expedite this very important scheme, which is necessary not only for the Andhra districts but also for the whole Province. I have given notice of a question, which is included in to-morrow's agenda. In that, I have asked the Hon. Minister for Information about the revenue figures, besides the technical aspect of the project. I hope that all the aspects will be considered well and the project given the highest possible priority."

* SRI V. RAGHAVAYYA:—" While rising to support the Demand, I have got a few remarks to make.

" I do not think any Member of this Assembly who entered the room of the Public Works Department Minister ever came out dissatisfied. He seems to have the knack of pleasing everyone. If you want the execution of a project costing 50 crores, you have only to go and explain things to him. He replies with a smile on his face: All right, you shall certainly have it. Another man goes and asks for the construction of a channel costing a few thousands of rupees and he replies: It is already done. There was a jailor who worked in the jail. The moment you ask him to do a thing, he used to say: ' It is already done '. We used to call him by the nickname ' Done, Done '. I am not referring to the Hon. Minister in that way. If the members should take the Hon. Minister for Public Works Department seriously and I do not see any reason why we should not, one question puzzles everyone and that is: How are the Government going to meet this extraordinary expenditure? The cost of the Ramapadasagar Project was estimated at the modest figure of 50 crores, when Sir S. V. Ramamurti was its patron-saint. Later on it bulged up to 80 crores, then it went up to 90 crores, and an engineer, who had taken a realistic view, put it at 100 crores. To our bewilderment, we now learn that the figure is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 135 crores. How is it that with all the engineers of the Public Works Department—all credit to them for their ability and capacity which are second to none in this country and perhaps elsewhere also—within a few years this estimate should have shot up like a rocket from 60 crores in 1945 to 100 crores in 1946 and to 135 crores in the year of grace 1947 and God knows and the experts in the Department know what the estimate will be early in 1949. I do not dispute the correctness of the figures, because the engineers are experts and we are not. Taking the figures at their face value, the question arises: How are the Government going to meet this extraordinary expenditure? I know, not as an expert, but as a layman that the Pennar-Kistna Project which was given up for lost as being perfectly impossible till November 1946 has become possible. Thanks to the wonderful upheaval given to it by Sri Prakasam

Pantulu and the learned and painstaking way in which Dr. Terzagi and Dr. Savage studied the project and gave their valuable opinion to the Government, it has become an A.1 project in the whole of India at the present time. Experts have veered round to the view that what was not possible a year and a half ago has not only become very possible but is even capable of yielding good results in the near future. It was said that this project could be completed within the next 7 or 8 years and could yield good results even within a short time. It is estimated modestly at 50 crores, and I hope it will not shoot up. These 50 crores coupled with the 135 crores come to about 200 crores. So many other schemes are being taken up in other parts of the province, and I am of the view that each district should have an equitable share and that no particular district should receive too much of mercy at the hands of the Government. I want to know from the Government what proposal they have under contemplation for raising this huge amount. Probably the Hon. Minister may answer that all this amount is not required in the first year and may be spread over the first ten years. But how are the Government going to find the ultimate sum? I can understand one way which the Government have already under contemplation, and that is to float a huge loan for irrigation schemes on attractive terms. The ryots who have been accustomed to get very good price for their produce and recently the Government also announced though unwillingly an increase in the price of their produce—would be willing to subscribe to the loan. The subscription to the loan for a particular project may be confined mostly to the people in the area which is going to be benefited. We can also expect from the Government of India grants, subsidies and loans. This province having been one all these years and several districts having stolen a march over the others in irrigation projects, I certainly expect a province-wide response for any loan that may be floated, so that the promises given to the various persons with regard to the projects have a chance of being fulfilled. I wish to suggest to the Government that before they attempt to proceed with the schemes, they should float a huge loan ear-marked for irrigation projects.

" The next thing that I want to place before you is that the Government should impress upon the ryots the need for conserving water. I am told that the people of Chingleput are as careful in using water as the Hon. Minister himself who hails from that district. They use water like milk and every villager is trained to it. The Chingleput district has got the largest number of tanks and even in times of poor rainfall, the ryots are able to manage safely. If that is so, I want that the department should start a province-wide propaganda to inculcate in the villagers a sense of thrift in the use of water and to impress that the water should not be allowed to go to waste.

3-45 p.m. " The other thing that I should like to suggest to the Government is this. I want that this Government should first of all disabuse from the minds of the Andhra people of this Province the impression which they rightly or wrongly hold, namely, that

the Andhra districts are not being fairly dealt with by the Southern people. Sir, I am holding no brief for the Andhras, but there is a persistent prejudice in this matter on the part of the Andhras against the people in the south—it may be a correct belief and it may be a wrong belief—but all the same, the prejudice is there. Well perhaps it may be the bitterness of past experience or it may be the realisation of the present position, or it may be the frustrated hope for the distant future. Anyway, there is that impression and there is that prejudice and it is no good trying to fight shy of it. It is a prejudice which has been there for the past several years and no effort has been made so far, by the Government to destroy this prejudice by meeting their demands straightaway. One of the reasons why this prejudice has been engendered and encouraged may be due to the way in which these estimates have been bloated with so much carelessness and recklessness. If this estimate of Rs. 135 crores had been made known to the Andhras just two or three years before, or even a year before, at least the Andhras would not suspect the Government's intentions, which they now feel and say, " Oh! this is only a ruse to trick us down and to abandon this Ramapadasagar Project. After bloating these estimates, the Government might say, ' how can we throw these Rs. 135 crores in one district? '

" Sir, that is how the prejudice has been allowed to grow and it is the duty of the Government to allay this prejudice "

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member has exhausted his time and now I call Mr. Anwar to speak."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret very much that the Hon. Minister for Public Works should have neglected his own constituency in providing schemes for irrigation. Sir, Charity must begin at home and we have got the Palar river running through his district and my own, which traditionally was expected to overflow with milk and honey, but where we now see, sands, sands and nothing but sands. I do not know whether the Hon. Minister for Public Works will devote his attention to his own district and see that he sets matters right.

" Mr. Speaker, the Palar has been the subject for generations on the floor of this House and I do not see any provision being made for that irrigation scheme in the present budget. I appeal to the hon. Minister for Public Works that at least in the next year's budget he must see that necessary funds are provided for, to execute that scheme."

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall not take the time of the House very much in answering the various criticisms which have been levelled against this demand by hon. Members of this House. Regarding the items of expenditure which are proposed to be incurred under this demand, there have, in fact, been no criticisms at all. Their criticisms related mainly to omissions under this demand, and hon. Members seemed to have taken this supplementary demand as if it was a

general demand on Irrigation and that the items of expenditure which the Government have proposed in it and for which they have sought for the approval of the House, represent the exhaustive irrigation programme for the Province as a whole. Since there have been no criticisms on this supplementary demand, my task has been rendered very easy. But, however, let me answer to some of the main criticisms.

Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu expressed his anxiety regarding the delay in the investigation of the Ramapadasagar Project. I can at once assure him and this House that we are expediting the investigation of that project to the best of our capacity, taking into account, the difficult nature of the investigation. During the year 1946–47 a sum of Rs. 17,67,699 was spent on the detailed investigation of the project. In the current year, up to the end of July 1947, a sum of Rs. 4,74,028 has been spent. This would show how we are proceeding with the investigation of the project and we are expecting that the investigations would be over very soon. Even from the results so far obtained, which have been submitted to the Government by the experts, we can say that the project, however difficult it would be, is quite a feasible one. We are now examining the other aspects of the project so that the Government can take it up very soon for execution.

" My hon. Friend from Nellore wondered that the estimates were going up higher and higher and he talked as if there was some trick about them. Sir, if the cost of materials goes up year after year, and month after month, the Government cannot help it. Last year, we estimated that the cost of the Tungabhadra Project would come to about Rs. 8 crores. But the cost of the materials and the cost of labour has since gone up and they are now four or five times the pre-war rate and therefore the present revised estimate for the Tungabhadra Project comes to about Rs. 17 crores. There can be no trickery about it. But still, if certain persons in certain territorial areas, with a blind prejudice make certain fantastic charges against the Government, then I can only say that the Government cannot help it. Regarding the programme we lay down, I can assure the House that we are taking into account the conditions and the facilities in each district and we are distributing our allotments equitably throughout the Province, not to any particular linguistic areas only, but to all the areas in the Province evenly, as far as possible. Sir, when the next general budget is presented, hon. Members can see how the various items of expenditure and how the various projects and works which we propose to undertake, are spread over the entire area of the Province without any special preference or favouritism being shown either to this or that area.

" Then, Sir, the question was asked, as if this were a general discussion on the Ramapadasagar Project, as to how we are going to meet this huge cost of the project. I might answer, Sir, that that is exactly the question we are examining at present. We have been discussing it with the Government of India, because it must

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be remembered that we cannot ourselves carry through this huge project without the aid and without the financial assistance and without the approval of the Government of India and I can assure the House that the Government of India are taking a very lively interest in this matter. We have had a discussion with them last month and we shall discuss with them again this month and again in February there will be a conference of the representatives not only of this Government and the representatives of the Government of India, but also of certain other interests who are affected and we do hope to speed up this matter, so that we may be able to take up the execution of the project as early as possible.

" Sir, with regard to the ways and means of finding the huge amount that is required for this project as well as the other projects which we have programmed, we propose to levy a compulsory inclusion fee and a betterment fee and we are also examining the question of bringing forward the necessary legislation for the purpose. We propose also to levy the necessary water rate for the lands that would be brought under these new projects so that whatever loans we will be obliged to borrow should not be an unnecessary and unbearable burden on the future provinces. At the same time we are examining what amount we are likely to get by way of these betterment and inclusion fees and for what amount we should go in for loans and how we are to repay the same. We are therefore examining all the various aspects of this question and we are discussing the same with the Government of India also.

" Sir, one of the present demands relates to the purchase of certain steel sheets which are required for the investigation of the Ramapadasagar Project and we can also use whatever would remain after investigation towards certain other maintenance works relating to irrigation and electricity. Therefore, this is not wholly a project expenditure. This is an expenditure only on the investigation of the project and whatever material remains after investigation will be utilised for other similar purposes and that is why we do not propose to bring this expenditure under capital expenditure, but show it as an expenditure under the general revenue account.

" I could also assure my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkateswarlu, and others who seemed to be anxious and worried over this matter, that there is no question of conflict between this project and the other big project in Rayalaseema and I do not see that there will be any difficulty in taking up both these two projects side by side and bringing both of them into existence.

" Sir, Mr. Venkateswarlu also referred to my answer this morning and said that a certain scheme was given up because of its prohibitive cost. I may assure him that the Government do not abandon any scheme of public works or irrigation merely on the ground of cost and particularly when it relates to the famine-stricken areas like the Rayalaseema, no consideration of cost comes in. But it must be remembered that even here we must have a workable programme of schemes and we must decide beforehand the

priority that should be given to them in the matter of execution. If there are more schemes than one in a particular area, and if some of them are less costly and more feasible than others, then I am sure hon. Members will agree with me that priority should be given to such of the less costly and more feasible schemes than others in the area concerned. That is the policy we have always been adopting in regard to the execution of these works in the Province.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Ibrahim referred to the drainage difficulties in the Cauvery delta. The Government are too well aware of the importance of this aspect of irrigation. No doubt there has been some neglect in the matter in the past, but now the Government have been devoting all possible and necessary attention to this question of drainage, not only in the Cauvery delta, but in the Kistna and Godavari deltas as well. During the last budget some 12 schemes were sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 29·63 lakhs. But I must tell the House that although Rs. 29 lakhs were provided for in the budget, works could not be carried out beyond Rs. 2
4 p.m. lakhs, on account of the dearth of labour. The question of the availability of labour stands in the way. People do not come forward to take up the work; perhaps once we sanction a scheme and invite tenders, people begin to look at the business aspect of the question. People forget for a while that these works are for the benefit of the general public; and it is not possible to get people to take up these works, it is not possible either for the Government to do all the works departmentally. Again, in the current budget, improvements to eight other drains in the Cauvery-Mettur Project area in Tanjore at an estimated cost of Rs. 6 lakhs and odd have also been sanctioned. We have been carrying out these works. Mr. Ibrahim also referred to the kudimaramat works which have been neglected. It is true they have been neglected; this kudimaramat system has become anti-deluvian. Government have been examining the whole question of the policy underlying the repair of these works. It is not possible for the Government to take up all classes of work such as these, and it would mean a huge cost for the Government; however, Government have been taking up all the important canal irrigation and silt clearance works. We are also examining the general question, and we hope to take a decision very soon on the long-range policy in regard to these. I have nothing more to add in this respect.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Anwar referred to Palar; we shall take that up during the general discussion on the Budget. Of course, I can assure him that it is a difficult problem. I would seek his guidance. In addition to his erudite learning, I do feel that he might have some technical knowledge too which he could very well give this Government. It is really a difficult problem, but still we are examining that and I cannot take this House into confidence in the public interests and tell this House what all we have been doing in this matter. There are certain delicate matters relating to this, and I can only assure Mr. Anwar and the other Members

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in this House that we are quite alive to this question, to the conditions of these districts which are very poor in irrigation resources and that we are doing our very best in the matter. (Sri R. V. Swaminathan: 'What about the Ramnad district?'). We are also alive to the conditions in Ramnad. We are also alive to the fact that it is difficult to provide new irrigation sources in Ramnad; but there will be some little item in the coming budget, I can assure my hon. Friend from Ramnad, relating to irrigation works in the Ramnad district.

"I would now request the mover of the cut motion, Mr. Venkateswarlu, to withdraw his cut motion."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, just before I withdraw, let me refute the suggestion made by my hon. Friend from"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member cannot make a speech."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I want to dissociate myself from the remark made by Mr. Raghavayya that there was prejudice among the Andhras for the Tamilians. So far as we are concerned, there is no prejudice, and it is not with any motive that we have moved this cut motion. I withdraw my cut motion."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I hope the House gives permission to the withdrawal of the cut motion."

The cut motion, was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is that under Demand VIII —Irrigation, the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 400."

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND IX—HEADS OF PROVINCES, MINISTERS AND HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Sir, I move—

that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 *under Demand IX—Heads of Provinces, Ministers and Headquarters Staff.*'"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker,, Sir, I move—

that the allotment of Rs. 100 *for Heads of Provinces, Ministers and Headquarters Staff be reduced by Re.* 1.'

"In doing so, I should like to make a few observations. Our Government is really very anxious about this Firka development scheme. Before working the details of the scheme, a great responsibility rests on the shoulders of the Government. I thought the Government would discharge that responsibility, i.e., to-day, particularly the demands of the N.G.Os. who are included under this

provision. If you go carefully through that problem, it is not such a difficult problem to solve. I would like to bring to your notice a few of the facts in connection therewith. The total expenditure on the N.G.Os. "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Might I point out, Sir

MR. SPEAKER:—" This demand is about Firka Development; it has nothing to do with the N.G.Os."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Sir, even firka development can be made successful only by the N.G.Os."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Might I point out for your consideration, Sir

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Is it a point of order, Sir? "

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Yes, it is a point of order. According to the rules, Sir, the hon. Member can only talk on the material that is placed before the House and on the expenditure that has to be incurred. The non-gazetted officers are not included in this demand, nor their salary, nor any of their work; all that we are concerned with is this amount which is put down in the explanatory memorandum."

MR. SPEAKER:—" I have already told the hon. Member; I hope he will follow what I have said."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Even though the stand I have taken is justified, I take your advice, Sir, and leave the matter at that.

" My point is to see that the firka development scheme is successful and to the benefit of the people. Till now, no report has been placed on the table of this House as to how far the scheme has progressed and even the hon. Leader of the House who has moved the demand on behalf of the Prime Minister does not say a single word regarding it. Yet, we are asked to vote for this demand and we are therefore placed in a most inconvenient position. At the same time, even at this stage, I would request the hon. Minister to come forward with a scheme, and tell us what exactly he is going to do with this. My contention is, nothing is being done. With these words, Sir, I move my cut motion."

M. S. ATAULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Mr. Speaker, I rise to move the cut motion that stands in my name."

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member need not do it; it is enough if the hon. Member seconds the cut motion already moved by Mr. Venkateswarlu, and speak on it."

* M. S. ATAULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—" I want to say that large sums of money are being wasted in the name of firka development; it is a huge and colossal waste which really does not help the common man; it is not spent for the betterment of

the people, but to divert the people and train the people to take part in *chadugudu* and such other funs and frolicks. If the Government want to improve khaddar, the money which they spend does not reach the man who takes to work, and that is a fact which the Government must realize. It would certainly be a waste of money if the Government want to divert the people to these funs and frolicks instead of raising their status, in these days of great economic distress. Will it be wrong if I say that the large sums of money which the Government are now spending should be diverted to schemes of electricity which will really help the irrigation in the country? The Government must realize that in these days of hardship, money cannot be wasted in ways which are not useful to the people; they should change their views and see to the betterment of the people. I really wonder what a huge department they have got, known as the Firka Development Department. It is a burden on the purse of this Government and if the Government do not think it is too late, it will be wise on the part of this Government to undo this Firka Development department and improve the status of the common man in the country. With these words, Sir, I second the cut motion."

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:— "Sir, in supporting this cut motion, I want to say one word. The House is aware that there is a khadi scheme already being carried out by the Government and about Rs. 3 crores has been allotted for it; there is also the Harijan Uplift scheme involving about Rs. 1 crore; we now come to the intensive rural reconstruction scheme by or through the Provincial Firka Development Board. What I want to know is: what are the different aspects of this rural reconstruction scheme? That should be first placed before this House. The House should be given an opportunity to discuss the whole reconstruction scheme and then alone they should come before this House for a grant. Two or three years back, one scheme was adumbrated; it was called Wilson's Field Utility scheme. That was more or less an attempt to give sinecure jobs to those persons who were the supporters of the Government at that time. Without any idea of development, economic or social, they wanted the scheme and they wanted to appoint inspectors, karnams and others as members of the Board without any idea of carrying out any economic programme.

"Now, Sir, this House is asked to make a grant in the name of rural reconstruction scheme. But, how this rural reconstruction scheme is to be implemented and in what way it is to be implemented, are not placed before this House. I do not see anything at all in the explanation as to what is really meant by this rural reconstruction scheme or under what head it has to be worked out. With these words, I second the cut motion." 4-15 p.m.

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with the two members who have just preceded me who have had their say with regard to the rural reconstruction scheme of this Government. There seems to be some difference in ideology.

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Some people want centralized industry. We on this side of the House do not believe so much in centralized industry and we believe that in this vast country, decentralization of industry is necessary. Government have thought fit, therefore, to launch upon this programme. I am so glad that the programme that was launched some thirteen months ago is being pursued by this Government. In this connexion, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to one particular industry which is part of this intensive reconstruction scheme, that is in respect of khadi. On the 13th of September 1947, Government passed an order in which they have stated that the Provincial Textile Commissioner pointed out the necessity of imposing a ban on the export of khadi cloth outside this Province which should be made self-sufficient in regard to cloth in terms of khadi. The Textile Commissioner has recommended that the All-India Spinners' Association may, however, be exempt from the operation of this order, yet the Government thought that a special ban was necessary and they passed an order that neither the All-India Spinners' Association, nor the private producers nor the dealers in khadi should be allowed to export khadi outside. Sir, there was some misunderstanding of the situation with regard to the fine yarn centres of the All-India Spinners' Association. The All-India Spinners' Association have a fine yarn centre at Chicacole but in their enthusiasm and in their enunciation of the policy of self-sufficiency, the Government have stated, let not cloth from this area go outside. The trouble is that the fine yarn that is spun in Chicacole and the cloth are of a special kind and it should really not be mixed up with the cloth requirements of this Province. This fine yarn spinning has not begun under the Khadi Reconstruction Scheme of this Government or under any scheme launched by the All-India Spinners' Association for the last twenty years or so. This fine yarn spinning has been the professional occupation of some families there for nearly one thousand years. There are a number of families, nearly 2,000 to 3,000 families there who still ply this industry. They spin yarn ranging from 100 counts up to 200 counts. There are several families of professional spinners there whose only livelihood is through the spinning of this fine yarn. Most of cloth made out of this fine yarn is not purchased in this Province at all. Nearly seventy per cent of the produce goes outside this Province. For centuries, long before the All-India Spinners' Association came into existence, long before we have thought of this intensive development of our khaddar under this Firka Development Scheme, people in that place were spinning this fine yarn and were exporting it, particularly to Bombay. But, Sir, under this order, on account of confusion of ideas with regard to self-sufficiency, this fine yarn is mixed up along with the khaddar requirements in the firkas and Government put a ban on the export of this fine yarn and what is the result? As I have already mentioned, hundreds of families are going to be wrecked and ruined. This yarn is admired by everybody; everywhere it is in demand. Therefore, I draw the attention of the Government not

to mix up this fine yarn produced in that area with the self-sufficiency scheme. If you want to meet the requirements of these firkas which are to be made self-sufficient, they can be supplied with what is called coarse cloth, say of less than 60 counts. But, we find that cloth from 100 counts up to 200 counts and the cloth made out of those yarns, are mixed up with the self-sufficiency scheme to the detriment of these families who are plying this industry.

"Sir, I have got in my hands a petition by nearly 3,000 heads of families who are plying this trade and whose livelihood has been affected by this imperfect order. So, I would request the Government to immediately put their minds on this and see that the export to Bombay and elsewhere of this fine yarn is not prohibited. As a matter of fact, they are not even spurious spinners; they are Associate Members of the All-India Spinners' Association. While we find that the spinners of the All-India Spinners' Association at Chicacole find a market in Andhradesa, these people have no other place except Bombay to export their yarn. So, I draw the special attention of the Government to this and I want them to lift the ban on the export of this fine cloth to that centre. It is a matter of pride that this Province produces one of the finest specimens of hand-made cloth which is in demand everywhere. So, let not that industry be killed by mixing up things."

* M. S. ABDUL MAJID SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I rise to support the cut motion. While speaking on the cut motion, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Minister that the expenditure under this head is growing from year to year and Government must keep a close watch over the expenditure under this head, lest this expenditure should assume huge proportions in the years to come.

"Regarding the Firka Development Board, Sir, I would like to point out to you that Members representing the Opposition may also be included in the Firka Development Board. I really do not understand why we are excluded from being members in this Board. We are also really interested in the development of cottage industries. You are aware, Sir, that the Madras Province is the home of cottage industries. In view of the fact that the Government of India is restricting imports into this country owing to the dollar difficulties, it is impossible in the years to come to import large quantities of articles that are essential for the consumers in this Province. Therefore, it becomes the duty of this Government to develop the cottage industries, like mat-making, vessel-making, potteries and things like that, so that they will be able to supply the needs of the people of this Province. As I have already pointed out, Sir, I would wish that we are also taken on this Board so that we may be in a position to apply our minds and to assist the Government in the development of these cottage industries.

"With regard to khadi development, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Hon. Minister to one particular fact

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and that is this. The handloom weavers as such should not be forced to khadi spinning because, as you are aware, Sir, a weaver doing the work from morning till evening will be in a position to earn more than what he could earn if he were to take to spinning. So, if the weavers are made to spin, it will indirectly hit the livelihood of many families. Therefore, Sir, under this Firka Development Scheme, the handloom weavers should be excluded from spinning and they should be allowed to produce more cloth so that their production may solve the demand for cloth in this Province. Some of our friends say that the people in this Province are producing very good handspun yarn. It may be for exhibition purposes that some people may spin such fine yarn, but it is not possible for every one of us, every one of the people in this Province, to spin yarn in the manner in which it is required by the weavers because when this khadi yarn is actually taken to the looms, it has to undergo sizing, warping and such other preparatory methods and in this process, there is unfortunately a huge waste in the khadi yarn which is actually produced. It is not possible for the weaver to utilize the whole lot and nearly 50 per cent of the yarn goes as waste. Therefore, I would like the Government to see that these handloom weavers are not allowed to waste this yarn but they may be supplied with mill-made yarn in order to meet the demand for cloth in this Province. With these few words, I support the cut motion."

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I propose to make myself the most relevant speaker on this motion. (Question.) The explanatory note says that the additional expenditure has to be incurred on the newly constituted Provincial Board which was created for the purpose of planning the Firka Development Scheme. It is very fortunate that this scheme is one of the many schemes which have continued to live with some enthusiasm in the hands of the present Cabinet. But, in the constitution of this Provincial Board, a very serious error has been committed. (Interruption.) I am going to tell you, Sir, what the error is. Sir, people who have been long associated with the constructive work under the auspices of the Congress organizations, people who represent the constituencies in which these firkas are located, have been completely left out. If these members have not been the *persona grata* with the Cabinet, Government could have considered their claims on their merit and put them on this Board so that their valued experience may be available to these boards in the planning of those schemes.

" Sir, there are one or two schemes which this Provincial Board has recently announced. The first is that the all-round water-supply scheme which has been sanctioned should be executed. Certain amount of planning is necessary and it should be seen whether any of the firkas require any further water-supply or whether any further water-supply scheme in the firkas is feasible or necessary. The amount will not be spent if there is no alternative scheme to work in these areas. Therefore, it would

have been much better for the Government to declare that every representative of the people in this Assembly has been made an ex-officio member of this Provincial Board, though no funds need be allotted on their account towards meeting their travelling allowances, etc., because the meetings of this Board could be held just at the time of the Assembly sessions. I request the Government to consider this suggestion so that the members may be allowed to participate in the deliberations of the Board. With these words, I heartily support the supplementary demand."

4-30 p.m.

* THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Sir, I do not think many words are needed for supporting this demand. My hon. Friend, the Communist member has, as usual, complained of nothing being placed before them. Of course, he traversed from China to Peru in his speech when it was cut short fortunately by you, the demand does not contain what he wants but what this amount is needed for is fully explained in the note. The Government are interested in rural reconstruction and it was my friend, Mr. Prakasam, who really started this because he was interested in rural development and after all India is composed of more villages than of urban areas and what was started then is being continued and intensive development of some parts is being undertaken in order to bring home to the people of these firkas that they could, of their own accord, make themselves self-sufficient in the matter of food, cloth and housing, etc. This demand is only to intensify them.

" I would like to say something about what my hon. Friend, Mr. Viswanatham stated. It is a reasonable complaint because this fine yarn and cloth are exported and what he wants is the removal of the ban on this fine cloth from export outside this Province. It is a very reasonable request which I will convey to the Hon. Premier who is in charge and I am pretty certain he will consider it sympathetically because when the ban was imposed it was meant for ordinary khadi production which is taking place all over the Province under the scheme. If people are really to be self-sufficient, naturally you don't want to let the cloth go outside the place where it is produced. But, this fine cloth of Chicacole stands on a different footing altogether and it may be that it may not all be sold in this Province itself and naturally if there is a ban these spinners and weavers who have followed this profession, not to-day but for nearly three to four centuries, would naturally suffer and their interests ought to be safeguarded. I assure the hon. Member that this matter will be taken up for consideration. I hope, Sir, with this my hon. Friend who moved the cut motion, who was not allowed to survey the whole gamut of administration, will withdraw his cut motion."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" On a point of information, Sir. May I have an assurance from the Hon. the Leader of the House that in order to have complete firka

development, provision will be made for the eradication of illiteracy from these firkas and that adult literacy and compulsory elementary education will be included in this scheme of firka development."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Well, Sir, it is part of the programme that adult education as well as removal of illiteracy should form part of this development scheme."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" While withdrawing the cut motion let me point out that everything the Communists bring forward the Hon. Leader of the House wants to brush aside. But, my point is there is nothing mentioned in the note itself about what they propose doing."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" I propose, Sir, that Demand No. XI—District Administration and Miscellaneous be passed over and taken at the end or immediately after the next demand, Demand No. XIV—Police, is disposed of."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Sir, I have no objection to the course suggested."

MR. SPEAKER:—" No objection."

DEMAND XIV—POLICE.

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Sir, I move—

' that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 300 under Grant XIV—Police.'

The note explains really the reason for making this demand. The Government have felt that there is necessity for a special police force in this Province because in moments of commotion the Government ought to be ready to deal with the situation and besides the Government feel that the Central Government should not be disturbed in the matter of supply of defence forces because their hands are also full and as a Provincial Government we ought to help the Centre not to fritter away the forces at their disposal and which are needed for purposes of the Indian Union."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the cut motion that stands in my name, namely:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 300 for Police by Re. 1 (to discuss about the District Executive Force).'

In this connexion, I want to make the following observations. All of us are no doubt anxious that law and order should be maintained, but for that I do not know why, as has been specifically mentioned in the note, Special Armed Police units are necessary. If it is only to protect the province from aggression from any "

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MR. SPEAKER:—"A number of Members are anxious to speak on this Demand and I would request the hon. Member not to take more than five minutes."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"The Government have sanctioned Special Armed Police units and for the maintenance of law and order I think this is too much. Instead of these units, I think it will be better to have a National Militia. When recently the Hon. Premier and the Revenue Minister toured the Andhra districts, they promised to have National Guards, but no mention has been made in this supplementary budget about it. I want to know what has become of that proposal and are they still considering the question. In regard to these National Guards, so far as the Andhra area is concerned, thousands and thousands of people are prepared to join these National Guards and I do not know why the Home Minister has dropped that proposal from this budget and has introduced only the Special Armed Police Force. It is said that it is in order to protect the people. Our main concern should be to arm our people and give them some sort of training by taking the initiative on themselves. I say the mere creation of these units will not solve the problem.

"Another matter which I want to bring to the notice of the House is this. In West Godavari, the Malabar Special Police has been stationed to guard the border, but in fact they are guarding only the zamindars and what is exactly done is they are used for crushing the peasants there. Even this morning my hon. Friend Mr. Satyanarayana Raju raised this matter and he has made it clear that five lives have been lost because of this Special Police Force. I think they must be given special instructions as to how they should behave and if we allow them to go their own way, they will not protect but eat the people themselves. In this connexion I may observe that they have not made it clear as to what is it they are going to guard. Have the Government accepted the position that there is a likelihood of an invasion from the Nizam or are they going to help the people in the Nizam's State to do away with the autocratic rule? If that is so, we welcome the proposal, but nothing has been mentioned in the note. It is vaguely stated that the grant is for a specific purpose. In order to quell disorders they may have the Special Police, but let the Hon. Minister come forward and say so openly. On the other hand, if it is going to be directed against the peasant movement, let him say that openly as was done by the hon. Mr. Prakasam. Nothing of the sort is mentioned, but it is left vague. After the recent visit of the Hon. the Premier and the Revenue Minister, all of us expected that a Special Police Force would be created to guard the borders of the Nizam's State, but nothing about this is mentioned in the note. I want to know for what purpose this Special Armed Police Force is going to be utilized? If it is merely intended to quell the workers, I believe the Malabar Special Police is capable of killing people, even though they may fail in the matter of protecting the people from the Nizam."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I second the motion moved by my hon. Friend the Communist Member, but for very different reasons. Sir, this is an oppportunity for me and for some of my hon. Friends to express very frankly what we feel with regard to these matters. I would briefly state that we, the Muslims of this Province, feel rightly or wrongly, that we are treated or proposed to be treated more or less like aliens in this country, whereas there is no justification for treating the Muslims as aliens. Sir, time and again the attention of the hon. Members of the Government has been drawn to the fact that after the attainment of Independence for this country, questions of the past should not trouble either of these Governments or any single member of this Government with regard to the attitude they should adopt towards the members of my community. We, on our part, have always assured the Government that so far as we are concerned, we are loyal subjects of the Dominion of this Union as the members of any other community. Even that assurance seems to have been not taken seriously. On the other hand, though hon. Members of the Government have assured us that this is going to be a secular State, not a State belonging to any particular religion but a State for the good and welfare of all the peoples of this country and of this Province, yet that has not been implemented in their actions. Let us see what is taking place with regard to so many things. In the matter of making appointments, the proportion that was in existence previously for the recruitment of the various communities has been changed. I ask, is the Government just and right in trying to undo the good things that have been done in the past. I am sure the Government is strong enough not to be forced by a few people. Politicians, to serve their own purpose, would like to force the hands of the Government to do things which are not in the interests of harmony, in the interests of the maintenance of law and order, and in the interests of the people of this Province as a whole. What happened? I do not want to detain the House long but I wish to state here what recently happened in some parts of the Province, particularly in the districts which are on the borders of the Nizam's State. Why did the Goverument take action at once although some of the Hon. Members of the Government, the Hon. the Premier as well as my esteemed Friend, Mr. Sitarama Reddi visited these parts, especially even after Mr. Sitarama Reddi gave a very honest and can did opinion as to what he found in those areas and stated that there was no need for any scare.
4-45 p.m. On the other hand, who is responsible for creating the scare? Sir, a handful of people who came down from the Nizam's Dominions into these districts of Kurnool, Kistna and Guntur have created an unnecessary alarm and that alarm has created a scare and the Government went on making searches in these places. With a few exceptions, the searches resulted in nothing and in the searches done in the middle of the night one hon. Member of the Legislative Council, Mr. Abdul Huq, died as a result of the shock which he received probably at the sight of the number of people who came for search. Not only that, I believe that most

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of the innocent people have been detained. Now taking things as they are and in view of the fact that in Kurnool, Bezwada and other parts of the Province things are quiet, calm and orderly, I think that it is time that the Government released these people. The need for the searches came from Hyderabad and what is happening in Hyderabad to-day? All the political prisoners there have been released, I may say, almost all of them."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Twenty-five out of 10,000 people have been released."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What is the policy of the Government of India and of the Deputy Prime Minister of India? He himself says that things have become normal and it is the duty of the Provincial Governments to see that normal conditions are restored in their provinces. I hope Sir, that the Government of this Province will take his advice and restore confidence in the people, particularly the Mussalmans of this Province. Sir, it is only on justice that confidence in the minorities can be maintained. It is only when people feel that they will be treated equally without any differences whatsoever, it will be very easy to maintain law and order. If the police force is increased, the people are frightened."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Leader of the House says he wants 10 minutes to reply to this debate. At 5 o'clock I will have to guillotine the Demands. I request Mr. Hameed Khan to finish his speech in a minute and then resume his seat so that I may call upon the Leader of the House to speak."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I want to say a few words, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Leader of the House wants some time to answer. He cannot leave this unanswered."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"This is our Government and I do not want them to have any policy of discrimination between one community and the other. They have to treat them equally. In the matter of appointments in the Police department also, you have to create confidence in the minorities by taking in more of the minority community than the majority. That is a very wholesome principle which adopted in all countries."

SRI A. RAMESWARA RAO:—"Do you want to have a Southern Pakistan?"

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"This fear complex must go."

(Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig also rose up to speak.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"I will allow Mr. Baig and the Leader of the Opposition a few minutes each."

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MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I will take only one minute, Sir.

"I would only say on behalf of the Muslims that the majority community need not entertain any suspicions or doubts about us, the Mussalmans. With regard to their anxiety, on behalf of the Muslims of this Presidency, I am making this declaration on the floor of this House. On the 15th August 1947, it was declared on the floor of the Constituent Assembly, that the Muslims of the Indian Dominion shall be loyal and will be loyal and so, Sir, if that is the position there is no need for any anxiety or suspicion against us. On account of this suspicion and scare, all the troubles have arisen."

*M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It has been the claim of the Government that the Police and other Forces were non-communal in character and I request the Government to keep up the same character now as well as in the future. This request has been prompted by searches of certain houses of Muslims, Sir, in certain northern districts like Guntur, Kistna, Kurnool and other places and by hundreds of Muslims being detained without reason, of course, under the Public Safety Act. Muslim officers, particularly belonging to the Police department, have been transferred from Malabar and other places. Many of the Muslim members of the Force have been deprived of their arms. It is these incidents that induce us to request the Government to make the Police more and more non-communal and for that purpose the Force should be sufficiently mixed up in character. Adequate share should be given particularly to the minorities. From my point of view even the communal ratio should not be observed in regard to this. More and more minority communities should be recruited to this Force. All these claims are based on the fact that the Muslims of this Province as well as the Dominion of India are the citizens, and loyal citizens of the Union of India. I have been making this declaration on behalf of every Muslim of the Province for months and months, on several occasions, on public platforms and in press statements and in other ways. On the 15th August the Congress and the Muslim League have entered on a new stage on the basis of the June 3rd Plan, to which both parties have agreed and that has buried every dispute between them. On that basis every Muslim in this Province joined enthusiastically in the celebration of the Independence Day and every Muslim house including even certain mosques hoisted the glorious Indian Union flag and what more spontaneous and simultaneous loyalty can you find, Sir? If there was any the least doubt, that should have been dispelled by this hoisting of the flag by Muslims in every nook and corner of the Province and the enthusiastic celebration of the Independence Day. The same loyalty still continues and whatever may be the doubt which may be entertained about the Muslims, they will remain loyal and their loyalty cannot be removed from their hearts because they are an

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honest race of people and they have been honest always as they are to-day. We have therefore every right to live as loyal citizens."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The time allotted to the hon. Member is over."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I have only one request to make, Sir.

"On the basis of what I have stated I hope the Government will release the persons kept in detention whatever may happen in the Hyderabad State, Sir. That State is not ours. We are citizens of the Indian Union and we have every right to ask our Government to give us this consideration. I hope the Government will accede to my request."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Within the few minutes that have been allowed to me, Sir, I am afraid I cannot traverse the field that has been traversed by the hon. Members of this House.

"I must first deal with my Friend, Sri Venkateswarlu, for whom I have a special place, a special corner in my heart. (Laughter.) He seems to be afraid of the mention of the words "Special Police." They are not as bad as he thinks they are. In every country in the world for the purpose of putting down civil commotion, the Government take care to have some armed forces, which is the proposal in this demand, because we would have to relieve our armed forces from such responsibility. We have won our freedom newly. Our State is young as States go and therefore the Indian Union leaders, the Prime Minister of the Indian Union himself, ought to be free from the responsibility of keeping law and order in the provinces which is a special function of the Provincial Government, in order to release the troops of the Indian Union who have already made a glorious chapter in the annals of the Indian army by their work in Kashmir, free from the work that may be imposed on them, in the event of civil commotion. That is the only reason for this demand, Sir.

"Coming now, Sir, to my Muslim League friends I feel rather elated after having got this categorical statement of their loyalty to the Indian Union."

(VOICES: 'Nothing new, it has been there.')

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"On the floor of this House this is very new and a very refreshing thing for me to hear. (Voices: 'Hear, hear; you are realizing it now.') There is no question of realization because in this very House my Friend Mr. Moideen Kutty and some members from Malabar wanted a Moplahstan carved out of the Indian Union. When such things can be done am I wrong if I entertain any suspicions? I say emphatically 'No.'"

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It is to be carved in and not out."

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"It is nonsense to carve in and by carving out you want to have a special corner, a special district in order to play a different role."

(VOICES: 'What about Andhra Desa?')

THE HON. DR. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I want to say with all the emphasis and with all the strength of language I can command that we want to put an end to these fissiparous tendencies."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is now 5 o'clock and I will have to guillotine the Demands."

DEMAND XIV—POLICE.

The motion that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 300 was put and carried.

DEMAND XI—DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The motion that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 was put and carried.

DEMAND XV—EDUCATION.

The motion that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 was put and carried.

DEMAND XVI—MEDICAL.

The motion that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 was put and carried.

DEMAND XVII—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The motion that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 was put and carried.

DEMAND XVIII—AGRICULTURE.

The motion that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 was put and carried.

DEMAND XX—CO-OPERATION.

The motion that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 was put and carried.

DEMAND XXIII—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

The motion that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 was put and carried.

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DEMAND XXIV—CIVIL WORKS—WORKS.

The motion that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 was put and carried.

DEMAND XXV—CIVIL WORKS—ESTABLISHMENT AND TOOLS AND PLANT.

The motion that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 was put and carried.

DEMAND XXVII—ELECTRICITY.

The motion that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 was put and carried.

OTHER EXPENDITURE.

DEMAND XXXV—CIVIL WORKS OUTSIDE THE REVENUE ACCOUNT.

The motion that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 was put and carried.

DEMAND XXXVI—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON ELECTRICITY SCHEMES.

The motion that the Government be granted a further sum not exceeding Rs. 100 was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I now adjourn the House to meet again to-morrow at 11 a.m."

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 563 asked by Sri T. Viswanatham at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 9th December 1947, page 4 supra.]

PRESS NOTE No. 210, DATED 21ST NOVEMBER 1946.

[Reservation of vacancies in Government service for candidates with war service.]

With the twofold object of stopping diversion to the civil service, with its superior attractions, of men who would otherwise form the best material for the fighting services and encouraging offers to serve with the fighting forces by offering the inducement of suitable civil appointment on demobilization, the Madras Government decided in 1941 to reserve for persons who have rendered war service a percentage of all substantive vacancies arising on or after 1st April 1941 which should be filled by direct recruitment. Later all substantive direct recruitment vacancies, with a few exceptions, were similarly reserved and later still temporary vacancies of long duration were also reserved. Thus the position is that practically all appointments to be made by direct recruitment are reserved for candidates with war service. Those who have been appointed pending recruitment of war service candidates have no claim for permanent appointment as they are regarded as being only on a purely temporary basis.

2. The orders of reservation referred to above will cease with effect from 1st April 1947 unless there are still vacancies lost to war service men by the confirmation of non-war service men in vacancies which arose between 1st April 1941 and 31st March 1943 to be made good.

3. The Government while fully appreciating the claims of war service candidates for reserved vacancies in Government service feel that those who were recruited to civil posts on a temporary basis are also entitled to some recognition and they have for some time been considering how to reconcile these conflicting claims. They have now decided that two-thirds of all the vacancies reserved should be filled by candidates who have rendered service in the War 1939–45, the actual appointments being suitably spaced out to enable those whose demobilization is delayed up to 1st April 1947 to apply for reserved posts for which they are qualified. The remaining vacancies, i.e., one-third of the total, will be filled by candidates who have not rendered war service, the selection being from amongst the most suitable of those who have been filling the civil posts temporarily. In this connection the Government have considered to what extent men who belonged to the Indian National Army should be eligible for reserved vacancies. They have decided that the Indian National Army personnel should be treated in exactly the same way as ex-service men and have equal claims to be considered for reserved vacancies for which they are suitable but that they will not be considered for any vacancies in the Police Services.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 580 asked by Sri T. S. Pattabhiraman at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 9th December 1947, page 28 supra.]

Statement showing the rates of wages and cost of living allowance paid to the unskilled and skilled labourers employed in the Government Cinchona Plantations.

Class of labourers.	Healthy localities.		Unhealthy localities.	
	Naduvattam, Hooker, Wood Estate, Dodabetta and Devashola subdivisions of the Nilgiri Plantations.		Moyar subdivision and Cherangode Plantations of the Nilgiri Plantations and all divisions of the Anamalai Plantations.	
	Wages per day.	Cost of living allowance per month.	Wages per day.	Cost of living allowance per month.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Unskilled—				
First-class men ..	0 7 0	14 0 0	0 8 0	14 0 0
Second-class men ..	0 6 0	14 0 0	0 7 0	14 0 0
Third-class women ..	0 5 6	10 0 0	0 6 6	10 0 0
Fourth-class children.	0 3 0	10 0 0	0 4 0	10 0 0
Fifth-class children..	0 2 0	10 0 0	0 3 0	10 0 0

Class of labourers.	Wages per day.	Cost of living allowance per month.
(1)	(2)	(3)
		Rs. A. P.
Skilled—		
Carpenters	Between Re. 1 and Rs. 3.	16 0 0
Blacksmiths		
Axemen		
Boyans		
Kanakapillais		
Nursery controllers, etc. ..		

Finance (EE)

The assembly question No. (1008) has been answered – Please see pp 14-16 of the forecoming printed questions and answers on pp (6-7) above. The papers may now be

Recorded

V. K. R.
14.2.48.

G.O. No. MS. 163 Dated 14. 2. 48.

Sub:- Legislative assembly question - October 47 - Cost of rearmed allowance to Govt - Papers. Recorded.

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